

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 185

THURSDAY AUGUST 5, 2010

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think it would be a good idea for CUC to go into receivership?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Shooting Rampage

A driver caught stealing beer went on a shooting rampage, killing eight people.

NATION...Page 14



Deadly Flood

Floodwaters surge into Pakistan's heartland, swallowing dozens of villages.

ASIA...Page 15



Breakup Again

Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston have called off their second engagement.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

4 candidates, 3 initiatives on November ballot. PAGE 2
Tinian mayor asks gaming commission to re-open slots. PAGE 3

Fund's unfunded liability jumps to \$545.5 million

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's unfunded liability appreciably increased to \$545.5 million in May this year from the \$498 million posted on March 31—a jump of \$47.5 million in just two months.

As of May 31, the Fund's total net assets was valued at \$354 million against accrued benefits to members amounting to

See FUND on Page 4

NMI so far 'spent' \$16.3M of \$94M stimulus funding

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada told members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday that the CNMI has so far spent \$16.3 million of the \$94 million in stimulus funds received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



Ada says
Census
wraps up

See STIMULUS on Page 4



IN APPRECIATION

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan, right, and vice president James Arenovski flank Kathryn Barry after presenting her with a plaque of appreciation yesterday for her six years of service as chairperson of the Chamber's Education Committee. The presentation was held at the Charley's Cabaret during the Chamber's regular membership meeting. Barry and her family will be moving off-island soon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesses expressed their frustration yesterday over the CNMI government's

requirements to secure a business license and other regulatory permits, as well as the U.S. Department of the Interior's lack of clarification on its five recommendations about improved immigration status

for foreign workers.

In yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club, members and guests said it takes a month, for example,

to secure a business permit in a small territory like the CNMI.

Others said the different regulatory agencies even have regulations that con-

See FRUSTRATIONS on Page 4

Witness tells how he gave bribe to Leon Guerrero

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government rested its case yesterday against Police Officer Christopher Leon Guerrero after the testimony of an admitted illegal taxicab operator who described for the court how he handed the bribe money to the officer.

The taxicab operator, known as Tiger, also admitted continuing to drive an illegal taxi despite an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation warning him to stop.

Tiger began his testimony on Tuesday and completed it yesterday.

Speaking through a Korean interpreter, Tiger said he had gone to the Department of Public Safety to retrieve the items and \$578 cash that were seized from him when he was arrested for operating an illegal taxi.

Of the \$578 cash, Tiger said he counted

See WITNESS on Page 4

Frustrations mount over local permitting process, feds' lack of response



World's Fastest Android
CNMI's Fastest Network!

Saipan: 622-4172 (TOLL) • Tinian: 488-0240 • Pohn: 582-4528 • Saipan: 674-422-4172 (TOLL) • www.itand.com



\$449*

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

*Promotional price. Taxes and shipping apply.

Local

4 candidates, 3 initiatives on November ballot

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three legislative initiatives and the names of four candidates will be on this year's election ballot, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Yesterday was the deadline for all candidacy and initiative petitions to be submitted to the commission.

According to CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero, House Legislative Initiative 17-1 was transmitted to his office Tuesday noon, raising to three the number of initiatives that will be ratified by voters.

HLI 17-1 wants to add a new

Section 10 to Article X of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Commonwealth to issue pension obligation bonds to pay its debt to the Retirement Fund.

The other initiatives are HLI 16-18, which authorizes the Department of Public Lands to reserve up to 20 percent of its operational expense for land compensation payments; and HLI 16-13, which will prohibit any increases in retirement benefits until all government obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund are satisfied or the system is fully funded. These two initiatives were passed in October 2009.

Four candidates have also filed their candidacies for the

CNMI delegate position: Republican Party's Juan N. Babauta, Covenant Party's Joseph Camacho, Democratic Party's Jesus Borja, and incumbent Gregorio Sablan, who is running as an independent.

Guerrero said the board of election commissioners is scheduled to certify both initiatives and candidates on Friday morning.

The proposed relocation of four polling places is also on the meeting's agenda for board action.

Guerrero had recommended transfer of polling sites in San Vicente Elementary, Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, and Koblerville Elementary School to bigger venues

to meet the 30-foot radius requirement of the law.

Budget meeting

Guerrero disclosed yesterday that he met with Office of Management and Budget director Vicky Villagomez and Finance Secretary Bob Schrack to discuss the budget needed to mount the election.

From the initial proposal of \$128,000, Guerrero revised the amount downward, citing the commission's willingness to work on a limited budget.

"We're expecting a budget of about \$100,000 for the entire election process. Both OMB and Finance have assured us

that they will look into the funding sources for the election to happen," said Guerrero.

He expects a budget update within the week.

"Once we receive the funding, we will work expeditiously

within the timeframe. We cannot print the ballots and public education materials without the needed funding...thus, [any delay] will affect our ability to send the absentee forms to our absentee voters," said Guerrero.

Manhattan Project symposium starts today at Tinian Dynasty

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A symposium that coincides with the 65th anniversary of the first atomic bombs used in warfare is scheduled to start today.

"Manhattan Project and Tinian: An Educational Symposium" will begin at 8am at the ballroom of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) will deliver the opening remarks.

The symposium features five guest speakers who are historians, academicians, and military personnel.

They include Dr. Roger Meade, an archivist for the Los Alamos National Laboratory for 25 years who published *Critical Assembly: A Technical History of Los Alamos During the Oppenheimer Years, 1943-1945*; John Coster-Mullen, author of *Atom Bombs: The Top Secret Inside Story of Little Boy and Fat Man*; Jim Petersen, founder of the Wendover Air Field Historical Society; Professor Anderson Giles, who produced two documentaries about the 509th Composite Bomb Group; and Nancy Bartlit, author, oral historian, and past president of the Los Alamos Historical Society.

Lang: CNMI govt's revenue in '11 will be higher than Fitial's \$132M budget

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that the CNMI government will be able to realize revenue that is more than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget submission of \$132 million in Fiscal Year 2011.

Tenorio, a former governor, said Fitial's FY 2011 budget submission does not factor in some additional revenue-generating measures.

He said under his leadership, the House will pass a measure that will reduce the rebate rate, from 90 percent to at least 75 percent.

"We will also pass revenue generating bills such as increasing business license fees. We could have additional \$8 million revenue," he said.

Tenorio also said that his two casino bills, once enacted, will allow for the operation of casinos on Saipan and therefore help the CNMI economy.

Fitial made it clear that his FY 2011 budget submission in-

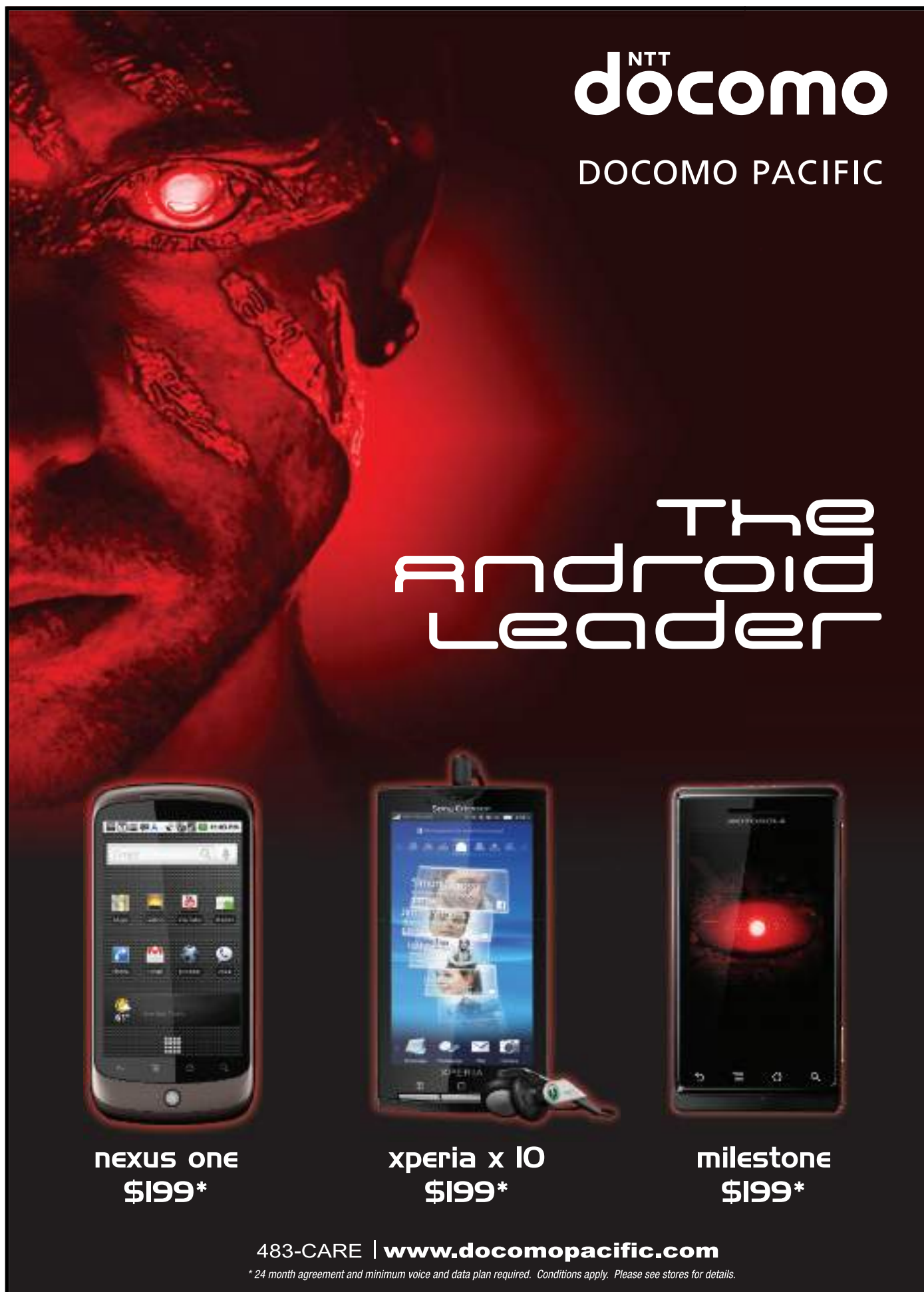
cludes austerity measures that include work hour cuts.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) said his FY 2011 budget bill reflects Fitial's \$132 million budget submission of April 1.

Fitial submitted a budget proposal of \$149.371 million, of which \$132 million is available for government operations.

The CNMI government will be forced to shut down if no budget is enacted for FY 2011 following the ratification of House Legislative Initiative 16-11 in the Nov. 7, 2009 general elections. The initiative removed the provision for a continuing budget resolution and bars any withdrawals from the general funds except through legislative appropriations. It also suspends the salaries of lawmakers if no budget is passed on time.

The budget bill will be introduced during the House session set for Monday. The Senate will also hold a session on Thursday next week.



NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC

The Android Leader

nexus one \$199*

xperia x IO \$199*

milestone \$199*

483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com

* 24 month agreement and minimum voice and data plan required. Conditions apply. Please see stores for details.

DUE TO UNSURE STATUS OF 3 CASINO PROJECTS:**Tinian mayor asks gaming commission to re-open slots**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the long delay and unconfirmed status of three proposed casino investments on Tinian, Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz is asking the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission to reassess its licenses to see if slots can be opened to other

applicants.

Dela Cruz said Monday that the municipality has not been given updates on the status of the casino investments being proposed on the island.

Tinian is allowed to issue casino gaming licenses to five operators. To date, four licenses have already been awarded, including the Tinian Dynasty

Casino & Hotel, which started operations in 1998 and is the only casino on island. Three permits were conditional licenses and were given to Bridge Investment Group, Marianas Resort Development Corp., and Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corp.

"These licenses are conditional, which means they have to live up to some provisions of those conditions. I already asked the commission to clean the books, go back and look at these applicants... and if they don't have the finances, we can open the slots to others," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The mayor blamed the economic hardship, federalization,

and some uncommitted investors for the stalled investments on the island.

"Because of the economic condition...everybody is holding back. Federalization of the local immigration system is also a big factor why all these projects are on hold," he said.

He also described as "ambitious" the \$1 billion casino hotel and resort that was proposed by Neo Gold Wings Paradise, which had planned to build a six-star 1,000-room mega-hotel on Tinian.

"They call every now and then...saying they will come over but it didn't happen. There is no clear direction on the project. Yes, they cleared the area for groundbreaking, but still,

everything is stalled," Dela Cruz admitted.

The Department of Public Lands disclosed early this year that Neo Gold Wings was long overdue on its land lease. From the original 300-hectare site for the investment, DPL only approved a 160-hectare site for the project.

"For somebody to put a \$1 billion investment is very ambitious," the mayor said, adding that even in casino-rich Macau, such an investment is pretty hard to come by these days.

Prospects for the planned Matua Bay Resort on Tinian, as proposed by the Marianas Resort Development Corp., are also dim.

"They're in the same situa-

tion [as Neo Gold Wings]...still waiting for finances to come in," he said.

MRDC secured its conditional license in September 2006 and the company was approved a 25-year land lease. The first phase of its investment was estimated to reach \$75 million, including the construction of a golf course.

The other casino proposer, Bridge Investment Group, secured a license in 2005. From the original plan of \$200 million investment, the company, however, scaled down the amount to just \$40 to \$50 million investment to build the Tinian Oceanview Resort. The investor initially planned to open the casino and hotel facility in 2009, but it never happened.

Dela Cruz said Bridge Investment Group now only wants to build condominiums on the island.

Another defunct garment factory, Tinian Dynasty owner sue US govt

» **For allegedly wrongfully assessed FICA taxes**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another former garment manufacturer and the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino are also suing the U.S. government to recover allegedly wrongfully assessed Social Security and Medicare taxes that were erroneously paid between 2002 and 2007.

Rifu Apparel Corp. and Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. filed the lawsuit through their lawyers Alexis Fallon and G. Anthony Long.

The two asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the U.S. government to reimburse them of the employers' share of SS and Medicare taxes (FICA taxes).

They also demanded attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and court costs, and asked the court to certify them as class representatives of their employ-

ees whose wages were withheld and paid as taxes.

Fallon and Long stated in the complaint that the U.S. government wrongfully assessed and compelled payment from the plaintiffs of FICA taxes as a percentage of the wages paid to the employees in each of the years 2002 through 2007.

"During these years, the assessment, deduction, and payment of these FICA taxes were not required by and were contrary to law," the lawyers said.

Fallon and Long asserted that the assessment, payment, and collection of FICA taxes from plaintiffs from 2002 through 2007 were mistaken, erroneous, and illegal.

Last week, Fallon and attorney Gregory J. Koebel filed a similar lawsuit against the U.S. government on behalf of 11 defunct garment manufacturers on Saipan.

For Sale or 55 yrs lease

Spacious 3 bed 2 baths newly built house

Located in Kannat Tabla, across CUC,

Nice, quiet, convenient location, Fully fenced, must see to appreciate.

Asking price is \$ 88,000 only. Financing Available.

For more information please call 233-1190/287-8250 and look for Sunny.

Email: mikespn@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION LAW

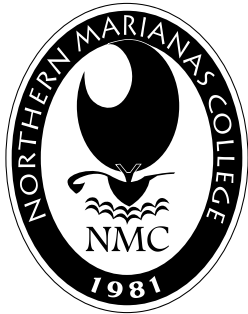
Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan



Keone Chariton

Kagman High School 2007 Graduate
NMC Liberal Arts Major

**I started smart.
I started at NMC.**

You, too, can start smart by saving money (versus moving off-island for the first two years), learning from highly trained and educated faculty, and transferring your credits when you're ready to transition to a 4-year university.

Enroll this fall semester and start your way toward a degree in education, business, nursing, hospitality management, liberal arts, criminal justice, or natural resources management.

Fall 2010 Semester Dates**Registration Week**

Monday, August 16 - Friday, August 20

Late Registration

Saturday, August 21

Student Orientation for New Students

Friday, August 20

9:00 am - 3:30 pm (NMC Library)

Student Orientation for International Students & Evening Students

Monday, August 23

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (NMC Library)

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

August 6	Friday	8:00am-11:00am	Room D-1
August 10	Tuesday	1:00pm-4:00pm	Room D-1
August 11	Wednesday	1:00pm-4:00pm	Room D-1
August 12	Thursday	1:00pm-4:00pm	Room D-1
		5:00pm-8:00pm	Room D-1
August 18	Wednesday	9:00am-12:00pm	Room A-6/A-7

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

August 10	Tuesday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Room A-5
August 12	Thursday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Room A-5
August 19	Thursday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Room A-5
August 20	Friday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5

For more information, log on to
www.nmcnet.edu or contact the Office of
Admission and Records at 234-5498 extension 1528.

WITNESS

From Page 1

ed \$500 and immediately gave it to Leon Guerrero. He said the officer received the money and placed the bills inside a file in his drawer. Tiger said Leon Guerrero told him to keep quiet and not tell anybody about it.

At that time, Tiger said, it was just him and Leon Guerrero inside the office.

Tiger said there was one other person who had custody of his things inside the office but that person left before he handed the \$500 to Leon Guerrero.

Tiger said he and Leon Guerrero

then went out to smoke near the entrance of the office.

At that point, assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley played a secretly recorded conversation between the two.

When asked why he mentioned \$500 in the conversation, Tiger said he did so knowing that the conversation was being recorded and to prove that he definitely gave the money to Leon Guerrero.

Tiger said he was very nervous at the time.

After that conversation, he got back his car. He said he was never taken to court because Leon Guerrero took care of the case.

Tiger said he believed it was in

September 2009 when he encountered Leon Guerrero again after he called the detective about his friend's car being seized by police.

At this juncture, O'Malley played another secretly recorded conversation between Tiger and the defendant.

In that conversation, Leon Guerrero told him he only wants to deal with him and not his friend on how to get back the car, Tiger said.

He said he was later able to get his friend's car after he gave Leon Guerrero \$300. He said the transaction was not recorded and could not remember where the payoff was made.

The prosecutor then played another secretly recorded conversation where

Leon Guerrero asked for \$200 partial payment and Tiger agreed that \$500 more would be given by next week.

During cross-examination by defense lawyer David Banes, Tiger said he used to work at a garment factory and that his work permit expired in 2006. He said Labor denied his request to transfer to a new employer and was ordered to leave the CNMI.

He admitted making money by driving an illegal taxicab and that he didn't pay any taxes for two years.

When asked if he was aware that an illegal taxicab company where he had also worked had been also involved in selling illegal drugs, Tiger said he didn't know about the illegal drugs.

Tiger also admitted that FBI special agent Haejun Park had warned him to stop driving an illegal taxicab, but he still continued to do so.

Tiger agreed that on Oct. 16, 2009, when he handed money to Leon Guerrero behind Payless Market, he was also waiting for taxicab customers at the time. At the time, he said, he was being recorded by the FBI.

Banes asked him if he believes the FBI will help him stay in the CNMI, to which Tiger disagreed, saying he believes that as long as he is helping the U.S. government in this case he will not have a problem.

Defense witnesses

With the U.S. government resting its case, defense lawyer Banes began calling the defense's own witnesses

to the stand, starting with police officer Regino Celis and followed by Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar.

Celis testified that Leon Guerrero was his then supervisor in a task force who taught him the ropes as an investigator.

"He's good," Celis said, referring to the defendant.

Celis agreed with Banes that he did not see Leon Guerrero receiving a bribe from Tiger or doing illegal activities.

Celis said he was in the office when he heard Tiger talking with Leon Guerrero about agreeing to cooperate in an investigation against a company.

During cross examination by O'Malley, Celis said Tiger agreed to assist in the investigation, but that he did not see him signing anything to be a cooperating witness.

Celis then described to the court how police officers are supposed to respond to bribery attempts.

Celis agreed with O'Malley that he looks up to Leon Guerrero for teaching him many things and that some officers call him superman.

After Celis, the defense called Sgt. Rangamar, the head of the DPS Criminal Investigation Division when the alleged bribery happened. When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, Rangamar was still on the witness stand.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge David O. Carter is presiding over the trial.

FUND

From Page 1

\$899.4 million.

"As of May 31, 2010, net assets available for benefits were \$354 million. It means should the plan terminate on this period, the Fund's plan net assets available for benefits is not enough to pay its accrued benefits," according to the Fund comptroller's report to the board of trustees.

Saipan Tribune learned that the \$545.5 million unfunded liability reflects 61 percent unfunded ratio of the Fund's plan.

The actuarial accrued liability—or amount of pension benefits to be paid to members—was calculated covering the period from Oct. 1, 2007 to May 31 this year.

To address these unfunded accrued liabilities, the Retirement Fund and the board of trustees have come up with a five-point plan that includes the floatation of up to \$200 million bond to pay for the government's unpaid employer contributions. This legislative initiative passed the Legislature and will be ratified in the Nov. 2 election.

The court determined in June last

year that the central government owes the Fund over \$231 million in unpaid employer contributions. Negotiating panels from both the Fund and the administration are working on the payment plan to satisfy this court judgment. Besides remitting the necessary taxes, the government was also mandated to pay a higher contribution rate.

Starting this new fiscal year in October, the central government is mandated to start paying its employer contribution to the Fund at a rate of 30 percent. This means it will pay a 30 percent share in the premium contribution of an employee, while the employee will pay the remaining 70 percent.

Other factors that would help solve the unfunded liability are legislative measures that would cut benefits to members and other proposals.

Among these include legislation that will provide for the government employer contribution to be made as a line-item appropriation for each department, agency, or subdivision, rather than as a percentage of defined benefit member payroll; change the COLA (cost of living allowance) to an annual bonus rather than a compounding increase to

pension amounts; a legislation that will allow members who are vested to refund their contributions, subject to a 25-percent penalty; stop dividing the \$1,000 lump sum death benefit among the designated beneficiaries of a member and allow the non-vested members to be converted to the defined contribution plan; and a bill that would change the disability annuity amount to match the minimum retirement annuity of \$6,000 per year.

"It is important to emphasize how the actual employer contribution under the defined benefit plan is pacing with the required employer contribution. Based on the required employer contribution of \$22.5 million, 62 percent or \$13.8 million have been collected from the employer contributions," the Fund's report to the board indicated.

The Fund's total net assets are from stock investments, money market fund, government bonds, corporate bonds, common stocks, and hedge fund assets.

Local Fund investments include the Member Home Loan Program, investment in the Group Health Life Insurance, the judicial building loan, and the Commonwealth Government Employee Credit Union.

the Chamber leadership met with Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, DHS counsel Phil Busch, and Federal Labor Ombudsman Pam Brown in late March to discuss these issues.

But he said to date, the Chamber has not received a response from these officials, not even an acknowledgement that they received a request for clarification from the Chamber.

Brennan said the Chamber could not conduct a poll among its members as to which of the five Interior recommendations they favor until the group hears from federal agencies.

Interior recommends granting improved immigration status to foreign workers who have been legally residing in the CNMI for at least five years.

The five options to do this include conferring U.S. citizenship to foreign workers, granting them permanent residency status leading to U.S. citizenship, or granting them a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

"We wanted several questions answered first before we even make a presentation to the Chamber," he said.

Brennan said the Chamber is also frustrated that DHS has not yet released its regulations on foreign investors and foreign workers.

DHS said in April that the investor regulations will be out in July.

efficiencies."

The Commerce secretary, in responding to a question from the Chamber members, said businesses also have to understand that the CNMI's procurement process can be a lengthy one "because of the tremendous amount of scrutiny" needed.

"But there has to be a way to make this process faster," he added.

Triple J Saipan's Michael Sablan, who is overseeing the company's \$12 million Sandy Beach Homes project, said Triple J also has had difficulties getting the requirements of different government agencies met.

"If I'm not from the CNMI and I don't know these agencies, I would have given up," he said.

Immigration, regulations

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, said it has yet to get clarification from Interior about its report and recommendations to Congress on the long-term immigration status of foreign workers in the CNMI.

The Chamber also has yet to get clarifications from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or the federalization law's transition period.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said

FRUSTRATIONS

From Page 1

flict with each other, and this adds to the frustration of investors.

Investors are also subjected to separate but identical public hearings. For example, the Saipan Zoning office conducts public hearings on investors' proposed business, and this is separate from the public hearings conducted by the Coastal Resources Management Regulatory Agencies, consisting of the Division of Environmental Quality, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Commerce, the Historic Preservation Office, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, the guest speaker at the Chamber meeting, said he understands the frustration of businesses when it comes to applying for regulatory permits.

He assured Chamber members and guests, however, that the government is now developing a federal grant application to implement the automation of the licensing process.

Ada said the difficulty and hassle of setting up business in the CNMI is created by bureaucratic inefficiencies, and that the Fitial administration is pushing for automation "to reduce costs, wait time, and improve

ings when they separately conducted audit and evaluation.

The CNMI is also the only insular area that has received a significant private sector grant, referring to the \$8 million in ARRA grant awarded to IT&E.

Census update

Besides giving an update on how ARRA funding has helped the CNMI economy, Ada also gave an update about the Census 2010.

He said the CNMI "is the first insular jurisdiction to complete the Census" ahead of the scheduled close date of Sept. 30, 2010.

"There were no breaches of confidentiality, no operational issues, there was strong community participation, and strong partnership between the federal and local government," said Ada, adding that the Census 2010 operations stayed well within budget.

The Commerce secretary also briefed businesses about the reestablishment of the CNMI Small Business Development Center, the use of Small Business Administration loans in the CNMI, and the Military Integrated Management Committee.

In his presentation, Ada said Commerce inquired into all FDIC institutions in the CNMI regarding SBA loans originated and approved. He had a meeting in Guam on July 27 with Bank of Guam, First Hawaiian Bank, and Bank of Hawaii.

He said the banks told him that Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution "serves as a large barrier to making commercial loans."

Article 12 restricts ownership of land in the CNMI to those of Northern Marianas descent.

Ada said Article 12 significantly impacts the ability to secure bank interests, and one way to cure this is by entering into a tri-party agreement with the CNMI government.

STIMULUS

From Page 1

The federal tracking agency recovery.gov, however, places the total ARRA grants awarded to the CNMI at almost \$99 million.

Ada said there will always be "lag" time in the reporting done by recovery.gov and the actual ARRA grant notification and award to the CNMI.

ARRA, signed in February 2009, is a direct response to the economic crisis and seeks to stimulate the economy by creating new jobs and saving existing ones, spurring economic activity, and investing in long-term growth.

The stimulus funding provides \$288 billion in tax cuts and benefits for millions of families and businesses, increases federal funds for education and health care as well as entitlement programs by \$224 billion, and makes \$275 billion available for federal contracts, grants and loans.

Ada said the \$16,331,818 so far spent by the CNMI includes spending on payroll, goods and services.

ARRA funding also created and retained 375 jobs locally.

Ada, the guest speaker at the Chamber meeting at the Pacific Islands Club, said that ARRA money made available 89 business opportunities, of which 78 have been closed.

But he said there are seven other business opportunities still available and encouraged CNMI-based business to take advantage of these opportunities.

Ada is the lead person in the CNMI for all ARRA-related projects and issues.

Ada said the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor/U.S. Department of the Interior Inspector General didn't find significant find-

BOE's three non-voting posts remain unfilled

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education will open a new school year this September with three seats still unoccupied: the students and

teachers representatives for public and private schools.

Except for the students' representative seat that they expect to fill, board member Herman T. Guerrero said that teacher representatives for public school

and private schools will remain vacant as a result of constitutional issues surrounding their appointments.

The governor is the appointing authority for both teacher rep positions.

The seat for public school teachers' representative became vacant in January 2008 following the expiration of Ambrose Bennett's term. Since then, nobody has been appointed to replace him.

The Executive Branch had pointed out that the delay in appointing one to the seat was caused by the Public School System's failure to meet the requirements of the CNMI Constitution, which mandates the certification of a possible

candidate by a collective bargaining agent of public school teachers.

According to Guerrero, the board had already emphasized that it has no authority to get involved in the selection of a candidate for the teachers' rep position.

"We don't recommend [a teachers' rep] because those are political appointees and it is the position of the board not to endorse any specific individual," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guerrero said the board has already written the Governor's Office to follow up on the status of teachers' rep appointments but there had been no response yet.

"Letters have been sent

out...but no action has been taken on these issues. It's like our letters are being ignored all this time," he said.

Guerrero acknowledged that it would take a while before appointments are made to the teachers' rep positions because a bill needs to be crafted to clarify the law's provisions.

The teacher representative for private schools position has been vacant since October last year when Scott Norman's tenure ended.

As of this week, the governor has made no appointment yet, Guerrero said.

"We would like to see the three posts fill...but in the case of teachers' rep, a legislation needs to be passed before an appointment is made," he said.

Guerrero said this new school year, the students' representa-

tive to the board will come from Rota High School. Francine Babauta's term expired when she graduated from high school this year.

Guerrero said the board will seek recommendation from the Rota High School principal on the possible appointee. The board will then submit the nominee's name to the governor for consideration.

Rota High School principal Sharlene Manglona said yesterday that no recommendation has been made so far.

Guerrero said the selection of a student representative to the board is on a rotating basis among three islands. The last student rep was from Saipan Southern High School.

The education board is composed of five voting members and three non-voting members.

Aldan purged of civil contempt

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued an order yesterday that purged Vicente T. Aldan of civil contempt, saying Aldan was able to provide credible information why it was impossible for him to turn over a gun he was required to surrender to authorities.

"Aldan has stated that it is impossible for him to turn over the weapon. ...The court finds that defendant's impossibility is a valid justification for his noncompliance with the court's order," Wiseman said, adding that the Aldan is no longer held in civil contempt.

In addition, the judge noted that Aldan's further confinement at the Department of Corrections would punish him for a sub-par plea agreement, which is not the purpose of civil contempt.

"When incarceration has lost its effect or when it becomes apparent that there is no reasonable possibility of compliance with the court's order, the court has no choice but to release the contemnor," Wiseman said.

Aldan, 53, pleaded guilty to assault last year for beating up his ex-wife in July 2009 on Tinian. He was sentenced to six months in prison and was required to surrender the firearm he used in committing the crime.

It was learned early this year that Aldan had failed to surrender the gun and he was

asked to show cause why he should not be held in contempt for failing to do so.

On June 2, Wiseman found Aldan in civil contempt, saying his explanation for the missing gun was "an incredible story." Aldan went back to the Department of Corrections.

Wiseman gave Aldan the opportunity to purge himself of contempt at any point in time by turning over the weapon to authorities or by providing the court with credible information on the gun's whereabouts.

On June 30, Aldan, through counsel Joaquin DLG. Torres, disclosed that the gun in question had actually been issued to a female police officer on Saipan who was dating his nephew. That officer gave the gun to his nephew instead of surrendering the weapon when DPS recalled or replaced it. That was how he got the gun from his nephew, Aldan said.

Aldan said he believes the Department of Public Safety retrieved the gun from where he had hidden it to protect the wrongdoing of the police officer.

Aldan said it was now impossible for him to turn over the gun because DPS had already seized the weapon and was attempting to cover up the mishandling of the firearm to protect a fellow officer.

Wiseman said yesterday that, while there are still some inconsistencies in Aldan's story, his further incarceration would yield no new results.

With alleged victim missing, case against ex-DOC officer dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The criminal case filed against a former Corrections officer who is accused of beating up his wife has been dismissed after the Office of the Attorney General moved to drop the case.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo dismissed without prejudice the charges against Jesse R. Babauta in Tuesday's hearing.

Dismissal without prejudice means the plaintiff or prosecution may re-file a new case on the same claim in the future.

Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal told the court that they are not ready to prosecute the case because the alleged victim could not be found.

Babauta's trial was supposed to start on Monday, Aug. 2, but it did not push through as the alleged victim could not be found

for six months now.

This prompted Govendo to postpone the hearing to Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Joaquin Torres, counsel for Babauta, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his client is happy that this case has been resolved. Torres added that the alleged victim had already signed a notice not to prosecute the case.

The OAG stated in the complaint that on Aug. 1, 2009, Babauta slapped the victim in the presence of a child and threatened to kill her.

The OAG said Babauta punched the victim in the head and pushed her to the ground, causing her to scrape her knees and legs.

Babauta has a prior conviction of disturbing the peace in 2008 relating to an incident where he allegedly pointed a gun at a taxi driver. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

World's Fastest Android CNMI's Fastest Network!

DROID INTRODUCING THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE DROID SAGA

INCREDIBLE

\$449*

3.7" 480x800 WVGA OLED TOUCH SCREEN
VIRTUAL QWERTY KEYBOARD
8MP CAMERA W/AUTO-FOCUS AND VIDEO CAPTURE
ANDROID 2.1, GOOGLE EXPERIENCE DEVICE
INTEGRATED GOOGLE, EXCHANGE & FACEBOOK CONTACTS
NEXT GENERATION SENSE UI • PUSH EMAIL AND EXCHANGE
8GB INTERNAL MEMORY • 1 GHZ SNAPDRAGON PROCESSOR



LIMITLESS POWER. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

DROID DOES

ALSO AVAILABLE

DROID ERIS

5 MEGAPIXEL AUTO FOCUS CAMERA
FULL TOUCH SCREEN WITH ON-SCREEN KEYS
ACCESS TO OVER 100,000 APPLICATIONS
WIFI

\$299*



IT&E

Life in Motion

IT&E's Superior Network in the CNMI and Guam

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599
Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

*Price Subject to Change. Some Conditions Apply. Prices Subject to Change. © 2010 HTC Corporation. HTC and Android are trademarks of HTC Corporation. All rights reserved.

\$6.2M campaign to give 'monetary incentive' to travel agents

» MVA meets with Fitial, lawmakers on Osaka, Nagoya plan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new \$6.2 million tourism campaign will provide "monetary incentive" to travel agents for every passenger from the Japanese cities of Osaka and Nagoya that they will be able to bring to Saipan during so-called low peak periods.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and lawmakers were generally supportive of the Marianas Visitors Authority's campaign but as of yesterday, there's no decision yet as to how and where the \$6.2 million funding will come from.

MVA managing director

Perry Tenorio briefed Fitial and lawmakers at the Legislature yesterday afternoon on the "Osaka and Nagoya Air Service Stabilization Incentive Campaign."

Under the campaign, the CNMI will provide a monetary incentive to all participating agents that will sell seats on direct service/flights from Osaka and Nagoya to Saipan.

"The maximum amount budgeted for this program is \$6,200,000—with \$3,100,000 for each city," Tenorio said in his presentation.

He said the maximum cash incentive per passenger is \$100.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said the Committee on Commerce and Tourism which he chairs supports MVA's tourism campaign, and will

work closely with other lawmakers and the Fitial administration to fund the program.

"This is a good plan. This is one of those situations wherein for a business to earn money, it first has to spend money," Villagomez said.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said he's "glad that MVA is doing something different, something new" to enhance tourism.

"I've not been satisfied with the MVA performance in the past, and now they have this. I don't agree with the plan 100 percent but I want to give MVA a chance to prove that their idea would work," the speaker said.

He said if he could have his way, he would rather work on cutting the cost of bringing tourists here than providing

monetary incentives to travel agencies after tourists have arrived here, but reiterated that he will support MVA's campaign as it is now.

Appropriation under FY 2011

The House speaker said he would like to introduce legislation that will appropriate money in Fiscal Year 2011 to MVA for it to carry out its Osaka and Nagoya campaign.

"Since MVA doesn't need the cash until after months later, then this can be budgeted under FY 2011," he said.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said he supports MVA's campaign and hopes that the plan would work.

"But I would like to emphasize too that before we do any-

thing to promote the CNMI, we should take a look first at our surrounding here—let's clean up the tourist areas, let's cut the tall grasses, let's address the stray dog problem, etc.," he said.

Palacios said MVA should also include in its tourism campaign the 2005 visit of the Japanese Emperor and Empress to Saipan.

Tourist agents targeted

MVA's campaign is designed to secure stable year-round daily air service from Osaka and Nagoya to Saipan by providing a

cash incentive to participating travel agencies.

Among the recommended participating agents are Kinki Nippon Tourist, Nippon Travel Agency, R&C Tours, Pacific Micronesia Tours, Toptour Corp., HIS, Hankyu Express International, and JTB World Vacations.

The periods covered by the program are from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15, 2010, and from April 1 to July 15, 2011. Each of these so-called low peak periods has 105 days. The campaign budgets \$1.55 million each city each period.

Learn more about whales, dolphins in free presentation

Would you like to learn more about whales and dolphins? Do you know what to do if you see a whale or dolphin in distress?

Dr. Charles W. Potter, a noted zoologist with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C., will be on Saipan this Saturday for one day only to help answer public questions and to give a short slide presentation.

During his talk Dr. Potter will share key facts discovered over the past 30 years about beach and reef-stranded marine mammals.

The event will be held at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Center this Saturday, Aug. 7, 2010, from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. Everyone is invited to come and participate. Questions and deeply held interests to learn more are most welcome.

The CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office, the Division of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Program, and the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management are hosting Dr. Potter, who is here as part of a team of marine mammal specialists visiting the Western

Pacific region. The group is conducting training for marine mammal stranding responders in Guam and on Saipan.

Dr. Potter and his colleagues from NOAA, and from the Hawaii Pacific University, are teaching local biologists on the latest methods to gather helpful scientific information from stranded marine mammals.

In the Western Pacific region, such strandings usually include either live or dead-beached whales and dolphins. These are relatively uncommon events.

"Those who are working in the field hope that in our commercial, recreational, and military associations with the sea, with the application of better scientific knowledge, they will become even less common," according to an APASEEM statement.

For more information, contact John Furey (234-5103) or Andre Kozij (323-5286) on behalf of APASEEM, Michael Trianni or Michael Tenorio (664-6000) on behalf of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, or John Starmer (664-8300) on behalf of the CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office. (PR)

For as low as **MINIMUM \$0.10 BET**
enjoy...

**BACCARAT, BLACKJACK,
ROULETTE, TEXAS HOLD EM'
and SIC BO**

...on the **Latest Electronic Gaming Machines**
brought to you by...


**Tinian
Dynasty**SM
Hotel & Casino



For further information, please call VIP Services at (670) 328-2285

STAR
Marianas Air

**SAIPAN / TINIAN CHARTER AVAILABLE 24/7
DISCOVERY FLIGHTS • FLIGHT SEEING TOURS**

For inquiries please call (670) 433-9998 / (671) 898-3456
or visit www.starmarianasair.com



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-4447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



PUBLIC NOTICE

"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"
July 13, 2010

AMENDMENT NO. 01

CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2015

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2010 - 2015 Consolidated Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is **August 13, 2010**, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Library to install system to cut down costs, uncover late fees

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new virtual computing setup that will be installed at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will enable it to cut down on costs as well as identify library patrons who have unpaid late fees and penalties, according to the information technology center coordinator of the library.

Roy Diaz Rechebei said the current setup of the ITC facility at the library, which consists of 14 computer stations—each with its own computer tower—incurs installation, upgrading and utilities costs that sum up to a significant amount of money in the long run.

The V-computing setup is part of the project to upgrade the ITC facility of the public library.

The project is made possible through the five-year technology grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Studies.

According to Rechebei, the current setup will be replaced by two servers and the virtual computing setup called the New N-Computer.

The New N-Computer will have 25 stations that will be called the V-Station. One station consists of a monitor, keyboard, mouse, and an N-Computing Device, a small device that connects the three components to the main servers.

Rechebei said in the previous setup, each computer station—inclusive of computer tower, mouse, keyboard and monitor—costs \$1,440. The total cost for 14 stations is \$20,160.

In contrast, a V-Station only costs \$510 apiece since it eliminates the cost for a computer tower.

With the current setup, each of the 14 stations would require software upgrade every three years, costing \$400. Total cost of software upgrade would be \$5,600.

On the contrary, since the V-computing setup is connected directly to the main servers, it requires a software upgrade every three years but at a minimal cost of \$400.

Rechebei said another related expense would be parts upgrades, which has a nominal cost between \$100 and \$200.

In terms of power consumption, the current setup of 14 computer stations at 500 watts per unit uses 7,000 watts. With the new setup, this power consumption will be reduced because the use of computer towers will be eliminated.

Once they receive the servers, Rechebei said they will install the initial 10 N-Computing devices and components that they have.

Late fees and penalties

With the V-computing setup, Rechebei said they would require all library patrons to re-register.

"The change will also include

re-registering of patrons to the ITC to keep up to date with library's patron count and will also be used to ensure late fees or fines are resolved prior to accessing the ITC," he said.

Once the new setup is in place, all patrons who want to use the ITC would have to log on to the new system.

Rechebei said ITC users would need their library cards since the number at the back of their cards would serve as their password.

Once users log on to the system, Rechebei said they can find out if the user has outstanding fees and penalties with the library.

Rechebei said the library staff would only require the user to acknowledge these unpaid fees and penalties. They can pay these later on, he added.

"The new system will ensure that those who use the library facilities would be patrons who have good borrowing record with the library," said Rechebei.

Brabu bids farewell to pharmacy interns

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center bids a fond farewell to their two summer interns, Jared Layman and Katherine Garcia. Both interns are students of Washington State University's School of Pharmacy who will be returning this month to begin their second year in the Pharm D. Program.

Washington State admits only 94 individuals each year to its fully accredited program, with 97 percent of its graduating students passing the national board exam to become certified pharmacists.

Both Layman and Garcia spent time away from intern-touring the island and enjoying the tropical weather and island views. "I really appreciate Saipan's scenery and

seemingly untouched environment," said Garcia, whose favorite hikes were to Forbidden and Bird Islands.

"What's nice about hiring interns is that they bring a fresh set of eyes, new ideas and innovations to a business that you can't always find on the Web or in trade magazines," said Ted Parker, Brabu's owner and manager. "It also allows me to support my profession by putting a few dollars in their pockets. We all know how important that is for students."

Layman said the internship allowed him to hone his communication skills with patients, especially with those who speak English as a second language. "What is nice about working in small independent

pharmacies is that you are able to develop relationships with your patients, care about them, and become more familiar with their illnesses; to provide better care and treatment."

"You can tell that Ted has that personal touch with his patients," said Garcia who speaks Tagalog and Fookien, a Chinese dialect, as well as English. "I think it is very important to be able to explain how to use medication in a language that is comfortable to your patient."

Parker agreed, emphasizing that his staff are encouraged to learn languages, with nearly 10 languages spoken at Brabu already. "Communication is vital to ensuring proper drug dispensation and use."

Parker also encourages local

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center's summer interns, Jared Layman, right, and Katherine Garcia, have their picture taken at Bird Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Judge OKs transportation, allowance for Robinson

The federal court on Tuesday approved the transportation and subsistence expenses as requested by Kent Sebastian Robinson, who is accused of forging a \$200 million treasury bond.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett ordered the U.S. Marshal to arrange for Robinson's means of non-custodial transportation to the District of Columbia.

Bennett directed the U.S. Marshal to furnish Robinson with the fare for his one-way ticket to Columbia.

He also ordered the U.S. Marshal to give Robinson money for subsistence expenses to his

destination, not to exceed the amount authorized as a per diem allowance for travel.

The judge earlier allowed Robinson's request to transfer the proceedings to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Robinson said the U.S. government has forcibly brought him, a lifelong Maryland resident, thousands of miles away to Saipan, a secluded and "completely foreign" venue.

The indictment charged Robinson with one count of making and uttering of a fictitious obligations and one count of mail fraud. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Shirley Ann Arriola, who is celebrating her 12th birthday! With much love, your friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PSS RFP 10-092

"STRUCTURED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TANAPAG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in "Providing Structured Professional Development for Tanapag Elementary School". The Scope of Work is available beginning Thursday, August 5, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Question may be faxed to Ms. Frances Ulloa, Principal, Tanapag Elementary School at (670) 664-3430 or e-mailed to frances.ulloa@cnmipss.org no later than August 20, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 10-092" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 9:00 A.M. Friday, August 27, 2010. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Jewelry Auction

Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Secret Service...
...and other in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.

Sunday, August 8, 2010
Auction: 12 Noon • Preview: 11 a.m. • Saipan World Resort

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry from 1 to 3 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, bracelets, bangles, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc...

HUNDREDS OF PIECES FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE

FREE ADMISSION

TERMS: Cash, Check, Visa, MasterCard, AMEX.
Auction not affiliated with any government agency or entity.
15% buyers premium added to hammer price. All items subject to error, omissions and withdrawal.
Roberto Galleries — State of Washington Auctioneer License #2506

NMHC approves five CDBG-funded projects

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. approved five projects that will be funded by the Community Development Block Grant for program year 2010.

During its regular meeting yesterday, the board authorized the allocation of \$704,120 for five projects that applied for the grant for the coming program year.

The projects and their respective shares are: Architectural and Engineering design for the Tinian Fire Station, \$150,000; purchase of fire protection and life-saving equipment for the Tinian Fire Station, \$100,000; rehabilitation of Sinapalo Children's Park on Rota, \$372,348; rehabilitation of Susupe Sports Complex softball fencing, \$30,000; and rehabilitation of Dandan Children's Park, \$50,000.

Total amount of project costs is \$702,348. The difference of \$1,772 becomes a reserve amount.

Alternate projects for the program year are rehabilitation of the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium, Susupe Sports

Complex landscaping, Susupe Sports Complex track and field bleachers, and the construction of ADA-accessible restrooms for the Historic Preservation Office on Tinian.

"We always have to have alternate projects just in case a primary project doesn't fall through for whatever reasons," said NMHC planner and grant writer Jeannie P. Mafnas.

Administered by the NMHC, the CDBG program is a flexible program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

The program, which began in 1974, is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD.

Dandan Children's Park

Frank B. Camacho and Nunu Sanchez of the Dandan Neighborhood Village Watch, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), and Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) attended the meeting to express their support for the rehabilitation of the Dandan children's park.

Sanchez said the park's rehabilitation will benefit Dandan's youth.

But the board raised concerns about who will be responsible for maintaining the park once the project is completed.

Camacho replied that the Dandan Neighborhood Village Watch, aka the Dandan Action Team, will be responsible for the place for about a year.

He added that the Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources put in writing its pledge to maintain the park through their Letter of Commitment submitted to the NMHC board.

"I'm thrilled. I want to extend my big thank you to the board for allowing us to continue with our rehabilitation plan with the Dandan children's park," said Camacho upon learning of the board's approval of the project.

Camacho vowed that their team will continue to assist in maintaining the park and looking after their village.

Tinian fire station

Also present during the meeting was Ignacio P. Kiyoshi of the Tinian fire station. Up to this day, the Tinian fire station shares facilities with the local police department.

According to Kiyoshi, the

original project proposal was for the actual construction of the Tinian fire station since Fire Division Chief Tom Manglona had recommended that Tinian use the same construction plan as the fire station on Saipan to standardize fire stations in the CNMI.

But Kiyoshi said a revised proposal was submitted, which seeks to acquire funds for the A&E of the fire station.

Although they admire the A&E of the fire stations on Saipan because it serves its purpose, Kiyoshi said they want a design that is suitable for Tinian.

"If we're going to construct a fire station, we might as well construct it correctly and appropriately," he explained.

Kiyoshi expressed his gratitude to the board, adding that the approval of the project signifies that they, too, see the need for Tinian to have a proper fire station.

"Wow... I appreciate the NMHC staff and board members for their full support and consideration for the project," he said.

Kiyoshi thanked Mafnas, planning assistant Jacob Muna, CDBG technical coordinator Clemente Sablan, and corporate director Joshua T. Sasamoto for "going the extra mile and getting this project going."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 5, 1999

Chamber opposes wage hike

Majority of the members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce who attended yesterday's regular monthly were against any move that would raise the minimum wage. Only two were in favor of increasing the present \$3.05 hourly wage, while two were indifferent on the issue. Despite much prodding from acting Chamber President Gregg Kresge, only few of the 54 Chamber members who showed up in the meeting gave their views. The meeting was attended by the Special Industry Wage Review Committee.

DOLI exempts garment firms from PROC ban

The Department of Labor and Immigration has issued another memorandum to clarify an earlier order banning entry of workers and visitors from mainland China, exempting factories belonging to the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association. Addressed to all airlines, immigration and labor offices and ports of entry of the CNMI, the memorandum is the third in a week from the department, following claims by some sectors that nationals from the People's Republic of China are eligible to seek asylum here. "The PRC ban... remains in effect," said the brief memorandum issued by the acting DOLI secretary the other day. "As a limited exception to the ban, the Department may issue work permits for replacement workers for SGMA garment factories, subject to all requirements and conditions of applicable law."

Aug. 5, 2002

Palau disaster drill a success

The Commonwealth Ports Authority said the recent airport disaster drill held at the Republic of Palau was a success as aviation officials underscored the importance of an airport rescue facility in the western Pacific region. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, who arrived last week after the July 22-26 drill said aviation officials from the Federal Aviation Administration, Hawaii-US Department of Transportation and ports officials witnessed the extensive training exercises jointly held by CPA-Aircraft Rescue Firefighting division and Palau airport officials. The air disaster drill and airport emergency exercise, which was held at the Palau International Airport, was a week-long Airport Emergency Planning training, aimed at assisting the Palau airport personnel on the full conduct of airport disaster preparation.

Process in replacing employees clarified

Amendments to provisions on the moratorium law on the hiring of nonresident workers benefited an employer—and possibly his prospective employee—whose late filing of application with the Division of Labor was condoned due to the ambiguity that the changes created. In an administrative order, Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody said that interpretation of the 90-day-deadline may have confused the Agbanlog Enterprises, Inc., a manufacturer of construction materials using corals. The ambiguity, before it was resolved by the Labor hearing office, arose from how to interpret the 90-day deadline of a replacement application, when the nonresident worker to be replaced did not actually complete his original contract's expiration.

Aug. 5, 2003

Proposed NMI Nat'l Guard gets support

The CNMI's thrust for a National Guard of its own got a boost with a promise from the commander of the entire U.S. Pacific Command that he will put in a good word for the Commonwealth on the matter. Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who just returned over the weekend from Hawaii, said he met briefly with Admiral Thomas Fargo and took up the issue with him. "Gen. Fargo and I spoke very briefly on the National Guard and I expressed to him that we are working with [Hawaii] Sen. [Daniel] Akaka on that and his support is obviously very important. He gave me a positive answer on his support," said Babauta in an interview with reporters.

Motion to dismiss suit vs Verizon junked

Former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry Deets yesterday scored victory in Bell Atlantic New Zealand Holdings, Inc.'s attempt to have her lawsuit junked by the U.S. District Court. Besides denying BANZHI's motion to dismiss, Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also allowed Deets to propound modes of discoveries against the Delaware firm, the parent company of Micronesian Telecom Corp. that owns and operates Verizon Micronesia. Deets has sued BANZHI, MTC, Verizon acting general manager Anthony Mosley, and Larry Knecht partly due to alleged racial discrimination within the company in connection with her employment.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP No.: 2010-CDA-13-RFP**

CLOSING DATE: Friday, August 20, 2010
TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
ITB10-DCCA/NAP-132**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 16, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"FY 2011 REDEMPTION AGENT
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY &
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, NAP DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-138**

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2010
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"REPLACEMENT OF REGULAR STREET LAMPS TO LED
STREET LIGHTS FOR SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA"**

COPIES OF THE BID PACKAGE CAN BE OBTAINED VIA EMAIL BY REQUEST FROM ROY P. REYES, P.E. AT rreyes@cnmiarra.net ON OR AFTER JULY 26, 2010. IF HARDCOPIES ARE DESIRED, BIDDERS MAY CONTACT THE PROJECT MANAGER AT THE PROVIDED EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARRANGEMENTS.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 10 AM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACCORDING TO THE BUY AMERICAN ACT.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
ITB10-DPL-131**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 16, 2010 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) TP DESIGN JET T1120
HD-MULTI-FUNCTION PRINTER
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

**for
Hong Ye Hardware**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2010-0040 containing lot# 008 H 28, Chalan Kanoa Dist#2 (along Beach Road) for Warehousing and General Wholesaling.

Date: August 12, 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, August 13, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Acting Board Chair



JOETEN'S BEST BUYS OF THE WEEK!

August 5 thru 11

Department Store

Hoover Wind Tunnel
Bagless Vacuum

\$149⁹⁹

Stanley Wet/Dry
VAC 5 Gal.

\$84⁹⁹

Stanley Wet/Dry
VAC 2.5 Gal.

\$45⁹⁹

School & Office
Supplies

25% off



SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-6446
THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET
TEL.: 235-6016
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

HABA-AJAI SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-7596
MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

KAGMAN MARKET
TEL.: 256-6441
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 10:00P.M.

JOETEN
ACE[®]
HARDWARE
Saipan
The Helpful Place!

Early Bird 2-Day Sale

Friday, August 6, 2010 2 to 6 p.m.
Saturday, August 7, 2010 8 to 12 p.m.

25% off

Furniture, Whirlpool Appliances, Power & Hand Tools, Plumbing, Electrical, Housewares, Lawn & Garden, Pet Supplies, Automotive, Selected Hardware, Cleaning Supplies & Paint Supplies

15% off

Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor, Generator, Pressure Washer, Ace Paint, Bed Sets & Mattress/Foundation

JOETEN
ACE
HARDWARE

**Come and visit us for more sale!
Hurry, while supplies last!**

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

SUSUPE BRANCH
Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe
Tel: 234-3117 or 6448 - Fax: 235-7568

GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

GENUINE PARTS. GENUINE SERVICE. GENUINE PEACE OF MIND.

NAPA Premium Motor Oil

5W 20, 5W 30, 10W 30,
& 10W 40
Net Wt. 1 Qt.

\$2.85
/ea.



Brake Fluid

Net Wt. 12 fl.oz. (355 ml.)

\$3.00/ea.



NAPA Oil Treatment
Helps Protect Against Engine Wear
Net wt. 15 oz.

\$4.50

**Our Location
at Joeten Motors!**

Limited offer,
while supplies last.



AUTO PARTS

MARIANAS NAPA, INC.

WE SELL PARTS FOR ALL KINDS OF CARS & TRUCKS

THE ULTIMATE SUMMER SALE!

SHOES & APPAREL
BUY 1 GET 1: **10% OFF**
BUY 2 GET 1: **15% OFF**
BUY 3 GET 1: **25% OFF**
EXCLUDING CROCS & CHOOKA BOOTS

SOCKS AND CAPS
BUY ONE GET ONE **1/2 OFF**
EXCLUDING NEW ERA CAPS

WOMEN'S RUNNING APPAREL
25% OFF

VON ZIPPER & FOSSIL SHADES
25% OFF

SCOTT'S & JORDAN'S
5% OFF

MARKDOWN ADDITIONALS
5%

JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER, SUSUPE

HABA AJAI SHOPPING CENTER, GAGMAN

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 185

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Conservative movement shifts toward demagoguery and hucksterism

By **DAVID KLINGHOFFER**
Los Angeles Times

David Klinghoffer is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and the author of, among other books, *Why the Jews Rejected Jesus: The Turning Point in Western Civilization*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Once, the iconic figures on the political right were urbane visionaries and builders of institutions—like William F. Buckley Jr., Irving Kristol and Father Richard John Neuhaus, all dead now. Today, far more representative is potty-mouthed Internet entrepreneur Andrew Breitbart, whose news and opinion website, Breitbart.com, is read by millions. In his most recent triumph, Breitbart got a U.S. Department of Agriculture official pushed out of her job after he released a deceptively edited video clip of her supposedly endorsing racism against white people.

What has become of conservatism? We have reached a point at which nothing could be more important than to stop and recall what brought us here, to the right, in the first place.

Buckley's National Review, where I was the literary editor through the 1990s, remains as vital and interesting as ever. But more characteristic of conservative leadership are figures on TV, radio and the Internet who make their money by stirring fears and resentments. With its descent to baiting blacks, Mexicans and Muslims, its accommodation of conspiracy theories and an increasing nastiness and vulgarity, the conservative movement has undergone a shift toward demagoguery and hucksterism. Once the talk was of "neocons" versus "paleocons." Now we observe the rule of the crazy-cons.

When I was a college student in the late 1980s interviewing for an internship at National Review, Managing Editor Richard Brookhiser fixed me with a look and posed a question that might seem more natural in a religious than in a political context. "How did you become a conservative?" he asked.

Evangelical Christians, curious about their fellow believers, will sometimes ask something similar: "How did you become a Christian?" Among conservatives, most of us too had "born again" stories, but they were political rather than religious. (Though sometimes our philosophical paths led to new religious paths as well: The first step on my own journey to Orthodox Judaism was to become a conservative.)

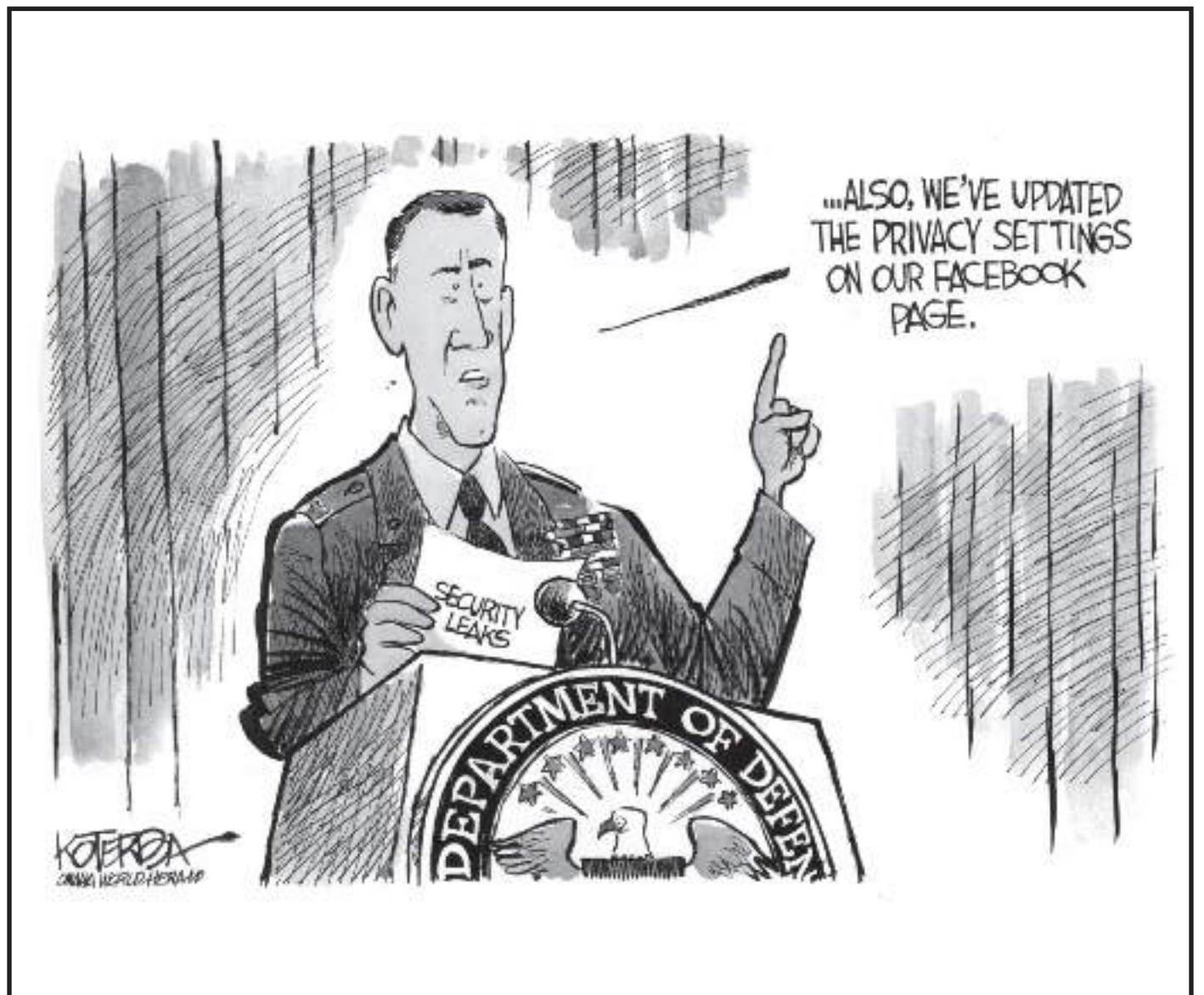
Conservatism wasn't just a policy agenda, a set of partisan gripes or a football team seeking victory on the electoral field. Above all, it was a satisfying, sophisticated critique of modern, materialist culture, pointing a way out and up from liberalism.

Defining conservatism is notoriously difficult. But no one did it better than philosopher Richard M. Weaver in a book that, more than any other, launched the modern conservative movement. Published in 1948, the book was "Ideas Have Consequences."

Weaver compared his role to a doctor diagnosing an illness. It is not enough to want to treat the symptoms—in this case, of our demoralized, dispirited culture. You must understand the genesis of the disease.

Weaver describes the course of the revolution in thought that

See **CONSERVATIVE** on Next Page



Indigenecity of our indigenes

From the outback of Western Australia, the village of Oombulgurri a few miles from Wyndham, came Aborigines engaged in a comprehensive village level community development project to our island world in Mactan, Cebu Province, in the late '70s. We were then engaged in a similar program from a demonstration Human Development Project in Sudtonggan, Basak Mercado, a settlement whose sole claim to fame were limestone outcroppings on the landing pattern of flights arriving at the Mactan Air Base. The aborigines (pronounced *a-bo-ree-gee-nee*) came to participate in the interactive multi-cultural (we had participants from India, HK, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Kiribati, and the Philippines) Human Development Training School held in Sudtonggan.

In the six-week residential design of the training school, we held weekly celebrations, and in one that had a cultural focus, we asked everyone to choose a performance in song, dance, literary reading, etc. that was native to their location. One of the aborigines volunteered to do a vocal rendition. If he practiced at all, none of the trainees and group facilitators heard it, so we waited with great anticipation.

On the eve of the celebration, we expected Russell to pull out a *didgeridoo*, or a *bullroarer*, or even a make-do *gum-leaf*, traditional music instruments associated with the aboriginal communities in Australia. Instead, he asked one of the local boys to hand him a guitar, took a tall stool in front of the mike, and proceeded to belt out "Please release me, let me go," a popular Engelbert Humperdinck song. The laugh that ensued was daunting as bewildered Russell could not figure out what he did that elicited the response, but the audience was saddled with "native" images, and Russell was just being faithful to what he knows to be his familiar native setting.

Our erstwhile almost Saipan Mayor Angelo ventured into defining indigenous rights once and came up with what is certainly universal human rights, to wit: 1) speaking one's native tongue and teaching it to one's children, 2) supporting and caring for members of one's family, and 3) practicing one's religion. This, of course, begs the question of who are indigenous to any given location, particularly the Marianas.

People of Mongolian descent got to North America first. Does that make them the only indigenes to the area? Should the Europeans who came later, from Leif Eric the Viking to Columbus the Iberian, John Winthrop the Puritan or Crispus Attucks the Indian-African scion, be considered intruding foreigners?

The galleon *Señora Margarita* capsizing off Rota in the early 1600s had Malay sailors whose lives were spared and allowed to

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



remain and intermarry with the local population. Are their offspring considered local? How much of a Cing or a Hofschneider, a Tomokane or a Yaneshi, a Torres or a Reyes, a de leon Guerrero or a Smith, is indigenous? Ah, but we are not really talking of blood consistency here, are we? So when we fling the term "indigenous population" to further our political agenda, are we really meaning anything specific?

We did a social commentary in this daily on "Being Local" early on. We claimed that being local is not a benefit of birth but a consequence of choice. And in our time, while we still claim local identity, we are functionally and administratively natives of the globe. I was surprised at the breath of assent I received.

Two features that are critical to the "indigenous" populace: ownership of real estate and democratic representation in legislative bodies. The real estate issue is protected under "affirmative action" in Article XII of the CNMI Constitution. That is subject to review and the debate is now on who will participate in the decision-making process. Obviously, racial exclusivity defies U.S. tradition and the current situation will not abide in perpetuity.

Historically, the phrase "pursuit of happiness" in American use referred to ownership of land, which elsewhere was the sole prerogative of sovereign. The socialist principle of public ownership of property broadened asset base; conversely, the ideal of unrestricted ownership of land is yet to be fully practiced. In so-called democratic Philippines, less than 2,000 families own 50 percent of private real estate.

The number of CNMI families who have relocated off island is considerable, and the internecine squabble over family-owned real estate is in media display. So which aspect of culture are we protecting when we insist on legal exclusionary land ownership?

"We do not wish to have the indigenous population be overwhelmed by outsiders" is the frequent comment. Hello! We reached that long ago. Just look around every sector of Saipan society except patronage government, and institutions of entitlement rights (e.g.,

See **INDIGENECITY** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Catching flies

I'd like to share some lessons about marketing from my recent encounter with flies. The first half of the article talks about how I helped rid our area of the pesky critters, and then I'll relate it to marketing as you keep reading.

Lately, we couldn't walk out of our house without flies swarming around the porch. It's difficult to capture them, so I thought of my options. First, I could use some sticky fly paper that has had limited success in the past, but it is unsightly and tends to lose its effectiveness after dust and debris gets stuck to it.

Second, I could give my young children fly swatters and give them a penny for every fly they kill. I've employed this tactic with success in the past. After a quick training session on the art of sneaking up to a fly and the proper fly swatting technique, they enthusiastically jumped into their new job. However, their enthusiasm typically lasts for a couple of hours before something else grabs their attention and they are no longer my willing accomplices.

My third option is to use some type of a fly trap that causes the flies to enter a container and stay trapped until they expire. I've bought commercial traps before at a hardware store, but decided to go to the Internet to find a solution. I picked the simplest design which consists of taking a plastic bottle—a two liter soda bottle works well—and cutting the top portion where the bottle curves into the straight cylinder.

Take the cap off, invert the top portion, and tape it to the bottom of the bottle so it creates a funnel into the lower half. To make the hole smaller and more difficult for the fly to get out, I take a 5-inch, round section of screen that is cut to the middle, folded into a funnel-shape, and secure it to the bottle top with a rubber band. If the hole is not large enough, push a pencil into the bottom of the funnel or just cut a larger hole with scissors.

Now it's time to put some bait to attract the flies. You can use anything that attracts flies, but if you want to get fancy, you can put

some brown sugar in hot water and after it cools, add a pinch of yeast. If it's a liquid mess, it will also drown the flies when they land on it to feed. I have three containers silently working their magic on the back porch. The traps are simple, inexpensive, effective, and work continuously with no effort.

Okay, now time to segue to your marketing efforts. There are three elements to capture flies and customers: 1) The target—who you are after, 2) the temptation—how you will attract the target, and 3) the technique—what method you will use to capture the target.

Your customers aren't pesky critters—although they might feel they're treated that way. They are valuable individuals who allow your business to exist and continue operating. As a business, you should focus on how to capture more of the right customers and then contain them for ongoing revenue. Your target should be your ideal customer.

The temptation is your offer and the value it has to the customer. This includes your goods and services, as well as anything that adds value to your customer such as packaging, after-purchase service, or delivery. The greater the temptation, the less resistance you'll encounter and the more customers you'll attract.

Next, you should consider your technique. If your marketing efforts take a lot of time or money and yield little for the effort, it could be like chasing flies with a swatter—you sometimes get lucky and get a customer, but it takes a lot of effort. The sticky fly paper can be compared to marketing that attracts a few customers, but quickly loses its effectiveness.

You must use a technique to both attract customers and keep them coming back continuously. It should be simple, inexpensive, and effective to be a winner. Colonial Penn was an insurance company that wanted to target older people. They tried to work with groups that had affiliations with their target market, but had difficulty so their technique was to start their own organization. They started the

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.

American Association of Retired People or AARP and the recommended insurance provider for the members was ...you guessed it, Colonial Penn.

An amusement park analyzed their average purchase amount of their customers and discovered it was \$25. Their technique was to contact all the non-amusement vendors on the park premises, like the balloon vendor and the hot dog stand, and offer them tokens they could give to their customers that were good for amusement rides. For example, if someone bought a hotdog and drink for \$3, the customer would receive \$3 in tokens from the vendor that could be redeemed at the park, knowing that the customer would end up spending \$22 more.

There are also techniques on the Internet that can be used to capture customers and keep them coming back. Lead capture pages typically offer a free report or some type of incentive to get the customer to share their email. Through ongoing, value-laden emails, the customer is primed to make a purchase or join a membership program

What techniques do you use to attract more target customers, get them to make a purchase and keep them coming back? Like the simple fly catcher, you should have a product or service that tempts customers and utilize a technique that is simple, inexpensive, and works continuously.

Putting a human face on illegal immigration

By KAITLIN MANRY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I became an English tutor by accident.

A few months out of college and feeling lonely and bored in a new town 3,000 miles from my family and friends, I volunteered to teach illiterate adults to read. It was something to do, somewhere to go other than my moldy attic apartment after work in a windowless office in Aberdeen, Wash., a foggy mill town of 16,000 people best known as the hometown Kurt Cobain slammed in his songs.

To my dismay, the volunteer coordinator at Grays Harbor Community College declined my offer. But she offered another option. "What about the ESL classes?" she asked. "They're full and not many people want to tutor immigrants."

The only immigrants I knew well were college classmates who'd come on student visas. I was ambivalent about the idea of tutoring people who might be in the United States illegally.

Yet with nothing else to do in the evening, I agreed to try it. I quickly discovered that I had much in common with my new students. Like me, they were new to Aberdeen, new to Washington, still trying to figure out how to stay dry in one of the wettest places in the United States.

Aberdeen's immigrants do backbreaking work tearing salal from the rainforest floor and selling the vines (\$50 for a day's work) to dealers, who send them to florist shops around the country. They pound Dungeness crabs with mallets and pluck their tender meat, or shuck oysters, or slice fish. Some man ocean-bound fishing boats with names like Tricia Rae and Crystal Marie.

By the time I arrived in Aberdeen in 2002, thousands of immigrants were sleeping stacked in apartments and trailers throughout

Grays Harbor County. And there were tensions.

Immigrant children crowded local schools, and their parents did not understand letters sent home in English and missed parent-teacher conferences and back-to-school nights. Many out-of-work loggers resented their taxes going to pay for the kids to learn English.

The immigrants, many of them Catholic, wanted places to worship, but churches were reluctant to offer services in Spanish. Hiring bilingual preachers and paying to keep chapels open for extra services would cost money, and it was assumed these immigrants would not be dropping much in the collection basket.

In loud voices and on the opinion pages of the Daily World, the local paper, residents railed against the newcomers for not learning English. But as I soon found out, they were certainly trying.

Every evening, exhausted after a day of work, men and women came to a baby blue schoolhouse in Aberdeen to learn.

I met them on the bottom floor: Level 1 English.

While the teacher taught salutations and vocabulary for clothing and food, I sat with the newest students and tried to help them sound out the letters to form the words in the language of their new home.

In my halting Spanish, I pointed out what I could: "Autobus. Tienda para comida. La escuela para tus ninos."

Sometimes they brought in documents—job applications, bills, report cards—and I tried to make sense of them. They laughed when my R's fell flat and refused to roll, and I teased them about the "hobs" they were applying for.

We drew maps of grocery store aisles and took a field trip to Safeway. We studied bus routes and U.S. currency. For Thanksgiving, we baked a pumpkin pie.

They entertained me with stories of Mexico and introduced me to pan de dulce, and sent me messages from their new Hotmail accounts. I soon felt less alone, more rooted.

I usually walked the half-mile from class to my apartment, but on rainy nights, a beat-up van full of Mexican men never failed to stop on the road beside me. The backdoor would clang open and I would climb in, grateful.

After volunteering at the school for a couple of years, I arrived one evening to find the room nearly empty.

Immigration officers had stormed a fish processing plant that day, blocking doors and trapping scores of people with fish entrails on their hands and clothes. Some escaped. I don't know how. Others were loaded into trucks and taken away.

In class that day, a man with pointy cowboy boots and a torn Nike windbreaker clacked over to me. I knew he had kids, two girls.

"Cat-lean," he said, searching my brown eyes. "How we know they no come here?"

I looked at the man, at all he had to lose. I had no words.

I could not promise him that our school would not be raided. I thought it was safe, but how could I really know? He would not be back to class, I assumed, but I knew he would be around, hunched over a bag of salal in the rainforest or dropping nets into the icy ocean in exchange for wages teenagers would turn up their noses at.

Although immigration raids and laws such as Arizona's SB 1070 push illegal immigrants underground, away from hospitals and banks and English classes, they do not force them out of the country. As long as there is hope—jobs, education, a future for the children—illegal immigrants, my students included, will stay.

An hour after arriving to a nearly empty class, I left school and stepped into the rain. I walked slowly, searching the darkened streets for a rusty van with a busted headlight.

I arrived home, soaked.

Kaitlin Manry, a freelance writer, now lives in Riverside, Calif. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

CONSERVATIVE

From Page 10

led from a seemingly obscure philosophical debate in the Middle Ages through Darwinian evolutionary theory to class-based determinist theories in economics and onward to contemporary liberal relativism.

In the process of disintegration was an ancient, shared picture of the world and our place in it. Once, Western culture was blessed by a "metaphysical dream" that meaningfully explained man to himself as, in the phrase from Psalms, "a little lower than the angels." Now humans were reduced to mere animals.

Weaver observed: "If we feel that creation does not express purpose, it is impossible to find an authorization for purpose in our

lives." A life without real purpose is likely to be anxious, restless, prone to bitterness and suspicion. The goal of conservatism was to restore to men and women a metaphysical dream that allows for ultimate meaning in our existence.

The idea of purpose in the cosmos was central to the conservative vision. Another icon on the right, Whittaker Chambers, described in his 1952 memoir, "Witness," the moment he awoke from his earlier communism: It was upon looking closely one day at his young daughter's ear. Noting the exquisite beauty, the evidence of "immense design" shook him. He could never again subscribe to the secular, materialist dream.

When I became a conservative, that is what I signed up for: a profound vision granting transcendent significance to public life and hope in private life. The goal wasn't to defeat Democratic officeholders or humiliate left-wing activists. It was, and still is, with

INDIGENOCITY

From Page 10

Medicaid and food stamps), and the dynamic presence is non-native born.






The issue of indigenous rights is similar to universal human rights—equitable access to commons and private property rights and participation in both representative and direct democracy. Why settle for less?

The *taotao tano* guards the safety and comfort of the harbor. Fine. The *taotao tasi* flourishes in the freedom and adventure of the open sea. Let the journey journey on, and take every one along. Indigene? Sure, of the planet! *Indegenocity*? My new word. Look it up.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Palau	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78

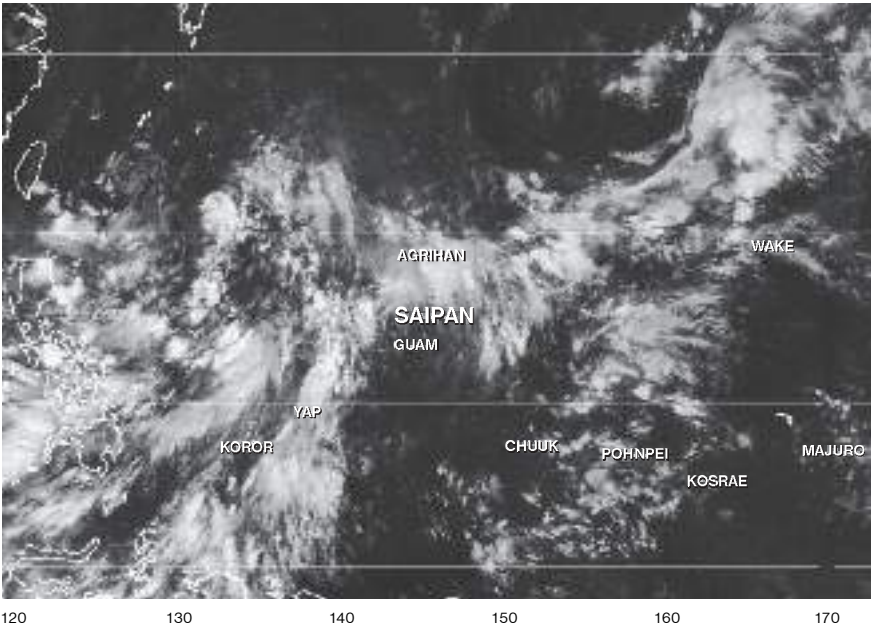
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 52
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 82
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▼ 75
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲ 92 ▼ 77
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 54
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Rome	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 65
Salem	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 58
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 51
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 96 ▼ 78

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
4:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southward from 25N130E through a broad circulation centered southeast of Okinawa near 22N127E to end at 7N127E. Winds converging east of the trough and circulation are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of a line from 25N140E to EQ140E. This area includes the Republic of Palau and Yap state. Divergent upper-level winds are coupling with convergent trade winds to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from just west of the Marianas to northeast of Wake Island or within 200 miles of a line from 22N140E to 19N150E to 23N163E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei within 300 miles of a line from 2N155E to 15N160E. Widely scattered showers are also developing near and east of Majuro between 5N and 12N from 170E to the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:41 AM	2:05 PM
Friday	1:36 AM	3:04 PM
Saturday	2:35 AM	4:03 PM
Sunday	3:38 AM	4:59 PM
Sunday	4:43 AM	5:53 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 4, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 3:20pm 5:55pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:10pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 9:45am 2:20pm Daily DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:10am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA DL640 7:40am 10:20am Daily	NAGOYA-SAIPAN DL641 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5	BEIJING-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am +1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:10pm Daily via NRT DL640/629 7:40am 10:35pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL630/641 6:30am 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO DL172/288 7:40am 1:10am+1 Daily via NRT C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3.5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Foremost Foods marks 60th year with Back 2 School promo

» GameCon slated for September

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



In celebration of their 60th anniversary, Foremost Foods brings to the community the Foremost Back 2 School Giveaway promotion.

Group business manager Glen D. Hunter said the Foremost Back 2 School Giveaway not only marks the anniversary of the company but is also their way of giving back to the com-

munity in time for the opening of classes.

With this promo, Foremost Foods will give one lucky buyer of Foremost product a chance to win \$3,000 worth of gift certificates from various retailers.

Only one winner will receive gift certificates worth \$1,500 from MegaByte, \$1,000 from Modern Stationery, \$250 from The Athlete's Foot, and \$250 from Boarderline.

The winner will receive all of these gift certificates to set themselves up for going back

to school, added Hunter.

To join the promo, just purchase a specially marked case of

Foremost UHT Reduced Fat liter sized milk at more than 35 participating retailers island-wide.

The specially marked cases have one entry form affixed to its side. Fill out the form and drop it off at the store where the Foremost milk case was purchased or at any participating retailer.

The Foremost Back 2 School

Giveaway promo runs from July 9 to Aug. 25.

Grand prize drawing for the promo will coincide with the upcoming Back 2 School Expo & the 2010 GameCon to be held at the Saipan Grand Hotel on Sept. 4.



Hunter

Hunter said the Back 2 School Expo will feature booths from various community organizations, showcase the latest in technology, display high end fashion, feature top-end sports equipment, educate people on

various topics and much more.

Meanwhile, the 2010 GameCon is organized by *Beach Road Magazine*, and is the largest and most reputable gaming event in Micronesia on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4.

It will kick off the coming school year by inviting kids of all ages to just watch or even compete in the island's biggest game tournament.

Hunter said GameCon is run by professional gaming enthusiasts from MegaByte's MegaZone, an organization dedicated to the game industry.

"Aside from highlighting

their gaming skills, the tournament will provide the players with a chance to socialize and be recognized for their unique talents," said Hunter.

The 2010 GameCon will start at 10am and end at around midnight.

According to Hunter, they expect a huge turnout at the GameCon and Expo.

Hunter added that tickets for the GameCon will be on sale shortly and the Back 2 School Expo will be free of charge to the public. "We encourage everyone to come down [to the event]," he said.

BP begins attempt to cut off gusher by pumping mud

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO (AP)—BP embarked Tuesday on an operation that could seal the biggest offshore oil leak in U.S. history once and for all, forcing mud down the throat of its blown-out well in a tactic known variously as "bullheading" or a "static kill."

The pressure in the well dropped quickly in the first 90 minutes of the procedure, a sign that everything was going as planned, wellsite leader Bobby Bolton told The Associated Press aboard the Q4000, the vessel being used to pump in the mud.

He said the work could be complete by Tuesday night or Wednesday, though BP said the effort could continue through Thursday, and engineers won't know for more than a week if it choked the well for good.

The 122 crew members on the Q4000 were excited about being part of what could be the final resolution to a drama that started with the April 20 explosion on the offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon, Capt. Keith Schultz said.

"I'm a mariner and we lost mariners out here," said Schultz, who is on his second 28-day tour of duty since the spill started. "I'm very confident we'll be able to kill this well. It's been one magical time trying to get this thing plugged."

A 75-ton cap placed on the well in July has been keeping the oil bottled up inside over the past three weeks, but that is considered only a temporary measure. BP and the Coast Guard want to plug up the hole more securely with a column of heavy drilling mud and cement.



A recent FAM (iliarization) tour by four Russian media outlets to the Northern Mariana Islands is expected to bring \$44-million in exposure value for this island resort destination.

In July 2010, television channel's Russia's My Planet, Russia 24, and Russia 1 and Russia 2 visited the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota on a 10-day location shoot that will be aired to millions of viewers. The Marianas Visitors Authority assisted the tour with securing media permits and helping coordinate their visit.

"These programs will air in Russian in the fall, and we anticipate this will be good publicity at a time when Russians are planning their holiday travel," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Dollar for dollar, assisting with this Russian media FAM was a good investment of MVA's limited resources."

"Most Russians travel through Korea to get to the Northern Marianas, and we hope increased demand will re-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Russian television media visited Saipan, Tinian and Rota in July 2010 to gather footage for television programs that will be expected to bring millions of dollars of ad exposure to this island resort destination. The media group was assisted during their visit by Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing Specialist Tatiana Babauta, second from left.

sult in more airseats for them to get here," said Bateman.

My Planet is the 24-hour Russian TV channel devoted to tourism and travel, reaching 15-million viewers. The channel targets top-managers ages 25 to 54 who are interested in travel-

ing. It provides programs on traveling, tourism, science and history. The channel will produce two 26-minute shows featuring the Northern Marianas, which will premiere on a Saturday this fall and have at least 15 replays over three weeks.

Russia 24 airs 24-hour reports about current events of the world and has 80 million TV viewers. Films on tourist attractions go on the air on weekends and are rerun up to 5 times.

The state owned federal TV company, Russia 1, reaches

more than 250 million viewers in 58 countries throughout the world. Their correspondents will make 2-3 minute taped reports for the program "Good morning, Russia!" from the Northern Marianas.

Russia 2 is another national TV channel with programs available to more than 100 million viewers of 80 regions of the Russian Federation. Films on tourist attractions of different countries are on the air weeknights and are rerun once on weekends.

The FAM tour was supported by Mariana Resort & Spa, Tasi Tours, Aqua Resort Club, Sand Castle, Capricciosa, Marianas Trekking, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Star Marianas, Big Boyz, PIC Saipan, American Memorial Park, Stars and Stripes sunset dinner cruise, Speedy Turtle, DFS, Saipan Sea Venture, PDI, Rota Resort & Country Club, Bay Breeze Restaurant, Saipan World Resort, Palms Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Louis Vuitton Store, and Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Meat from cloned cow offspring in UK food chain

LONDON (AP)—Meat from the offspring of a cloned cow in the United States entered the British food chain without official authorization, the UK's Food Standards Agency said Tuesday. The agency carried out its investigation after media reports said milk from a cow produced from a cloned parent was sold in Britain. Products from cloned animals and their offspring are considered "novel foods" in Britain and cannot be marketed unless authorized by

the FSA, a government department. The agency said it identified two bulls born in the U.K. from embryos harvested from a cloned cow in the U.S. One of the bulls, known as Dundee Paratrooper, was slaughtered in July 2009, and its meat entered the food chain and "will have been eaten," the agency said.

Playboy forms panel to weigh Hefner's buyout bid

CHICAGO (AP)—Playboy Enterprises Inc. said Tuesday its board of directors has formed a special committee to consider

founder Hugh Hefner's proposal to buy out the rest of the company. The committee will consist of attorney Sol Rosenthal, who will serve as its chairman, and Playboy director Shing Tao. Rosenthal is a counsel at international law firm Arnold & Porter, while Tao is chairman and chief investment officer of Pacific Star Partners, a private investment group. Hefner offered on July 9 to buy the roughly 30 percent of Playboy's outstanding shares that he doesn't already own for \$5.50 each, and take the company private in a deal valuing Playboy at \$185 million. A few

days later, Penthouse magazine owner FriendFinder Networks Inc. made a formal, competing bid for the Playboy empire worth \$210 million, but any such deal would require Hefner to agree to sell his nearly 70 percent stake.

Oil falls to near \$82 on weak US crude demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell slightly from a three-month high above \$82 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report showed U.S. crude inventories fell less than expected last week,

suggesting demand in the U.S. remains sluggish. Benchmark crude for September delivery was down 38 cents to \$82.17 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained \$1.21 to settle at \$82.55 on Tuesday, the highest since May 4. U.S. crude inventories fell by 776,000 barrels last week, according to the American Petroleum Institute. That was less than a drop of 1.2 million barrels that analysts expected, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
10,636.38	1,120.46	2,283.52
-38.00	-5.40	-11.84
-0.36%	-0.48%	-0.52%

EXCHANGE RATES

in U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.0968	Indian Rupee	46.2500	Singapore Dollar	1.3534
	British Pound	0.6282	Indonesian Rupiah	8,952.5	South Korean Won	1,171.3
	Canadian Dollar	1.0253	Japanese Yen	85.3650	Swiss Franc	1.0428
	Chinese Yuan	6.7775	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1690	Taiwan Dollar	31.7950
	Euro	0.7570	New Zealand Dollar	1.3612	Thailand Baht	32.1800

Nation

'Cold as ice' Conn. beer driver kills 8, himself

MANCHESTER, Conn. (AP)—A driver caught stealing beer from the warehouse where he worked agreed to resign on Tuesday and then as "cold as ice," one of his victims said, went on a shooting rampage, killing eight people and injuring two before committing suicide.

Omar Thornton pulled out a handgun after a meeting in which he was shown video evidence of the thefts and was offered the chance to quit or be fired.

"Then he went out on this rampage," company vice president Steve Hollander told The Associated Press. "He was cool and calm. He didn't yell. He was cold as ice. He didn't protest when we were meeting with him to show him the video of him stealing. He didn't contest it. He didn't complain. He didn't argue. He didn't admit or deny anything. He just agreed to resign. And then he just unexplainably pulled out his gun and started blasting."

Hollander said he thinks Thornton, 34, had guns stashed in his lunch box. The executive said two people standing near

him were shot in the head and killed, but he was only grazed in the jaw and the arm.

"He shot at me twice and hit me a couple times," he said. "By just the grace of God, I

don't know how he missed me." About 50 to 70 people were in the Hartford Distributors ware-

house about 10 miles east of Hartford during a shift change when the gunman opened fire around 7 a.m., said Brett Hollander, Steve Hollander's cousin and a member of the family that owns the distributorship.

"I was on the phone with 911 and then I saw him running outside of my office window, shooting his gun, carrying his lunch box, which must have had his weapons in it," Steve Hollander said. "It doesn't seem real to me now, it seems like I'm watching a movie."

The shooting was over in a matter of minutes. The victims were found all over the complex, and authorities said they didn't know if Thornton fired randomly or targeted specific co-workers.

After shooting his co-workers, Thornton called his mother, who

tried for 10 minutes to talk him out of killing himself, his uncle Will Holliday told reporters.

"He said, 'I killed the five racists that was there that was bothering me,'" Holliday said. "He said, 'The cops are going to come in so I am going to take care of myself.'"

Thornton was alive when police got to the scene but killed himself before officers got to him, Manchester police Chief Marc Montminy said. A police sharpshooter had approval to fire on Thornton when he killed himself, an official with knowledge of the scene told the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Workers had flooded out of the building as police officers raced into it, Montminy told the town's board of directors Tuesday evening.



Joanne Hannah speaks to the Associated Press outside her home in Enfield, Conn., Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010. Hannah's daughter Kristi dated Omar Thornton, a driver for Hartford Distributors who authorities say killed eight people, plus himself at the beer distribution company in Connecticut Tuesday morning. Hannah says her daughter told her that Thornton complained of racial harassment at work.

Tragedy on a river: 6 teens from 2 families drown

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—DeKendrix Warner was splashing around in the waist-high waters of the Red River with his cousins and friends, trying to escape the oppressive Louisiana heat, when he stepped off a slippery ledge—and was plunged into water 25-feet deep.

As the 15-year-old kicked and flailed, one cousin rushed to help—and found himself plummeting down the severe drop-off. Then another.

In all, six teenagers tried to save DeKendrix—and each other—but none of them could swim. Their relatives, who can't swim either, looked on helplessly as the teens screamed out for help. Six vanished and drowned Monday; DeKendrix was rescued by a bystander.

"I stepped and I started drowning," the boy told The Associated Press Tuesday, speaking in a low voice outside his inner-city Shreveport home, a one-story white clapboard

structure with peeling green trim and an unkempt yard.

It had started out as a typical summer family get-together—a large group of relatives and

friends, including about 20 children, gathered on a sandy shore near the river's bank for an afternoon of swimming and barbecue.

They didn't even have time to set up the grill before tragedy struck.

"It's hard when you can't save your kids," said Maude Warner, whose 13-year-old daughter Takeitha and sons 14-year-old JaMarcus and 17-year-old JaTavious were among those who drowned.

"It's hard when you just see your kids drowning and you can't save them," she told KTBS TV.

The other victims were three brothers: 18-year-old Litrelle Stewart, 17-year-old LaDairus and 15-year-old Latevin.

The area where the drownings occurred is near a public park, but it's not a designated recreational or swimming area and there are no lifeguards on duty. The spot is often frequented by swimmers and fishermen, who must walk through woods along a path to reach the river. The city had just dug a trench to limit access to it.



Family react as Shreveport Fire Department and Caddo Sheriff's deputies scour the beach at Charles and Marie Hamel Memorial Park in Shreveport, La.

Authorities: Wire cutters aided AZ inmates' escape

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Three convicted murderers escaped a privately run prison in Arizona by using wire cutters that a woman threw over a fence, a state Department of Corrections spokesman said Tuesday.

Officials also said prison staff didn't realize the inmates were missing Friday until after sensors on the perimeter fence sounded and

a 9 p.m. head count, which came five hours after the three were last accounted for by prison staff.

The woman who authorities say helped in the escape is Casslyn Mae Welch, 44, of Mesa—the fiancée and cousin of John McCluskey, one of the three inmates. She was waiting outside the prison in Kingman as the inmates breached a perimeter

fence with the wire cutters and escaped, said department spokesman Barrett Marson.

A security camera captured Welch driving a blue sedan around the facility that holds minimum- and medium-security inmates.

Corrections Director Charles Ryan has said "lax" security created an opportunity for the men to escape. He's scheduled to meet with representatives of

the prison operator, Utah-based Management and Training Corp., on Wednesday, Marson said.

"We are going over everything that happened during the night of the escape, and many issues will be addressed with MTC," Marson said.

A spokesman for MTC, Carl Stuart, declined to comment on security at the 3,508-bed facility.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Illegal immigrant crashes, killing Va. nun

WASHINGTON (AP)—An illegal immigrant awaiting a deportation ruling has been charged with killing a nun and critically injuring two others in a drunken driving crash that has sparked criticism of how immigration enforcement is handled. A local official in the Virginia suburb where the crash happened and a congressman from another state have criticized federal officials for not removing the suspect from the country after previous arrests, and even U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano questioned why his deportation was taking so long. A spokeswoman for the nuns' order, meanwhile, said they're upset that the tragedy is being politicized. Twenty-three-year-old Carlos Martinelli Montano, who police say is illegally in the country, is charged with drunken driving, involuntary manslaughter and felony driving on a revoked license after the accident on Sunday in Virginia's Prince William County. Montano was arrested two times before and charged with drunken driving, according to county police, and has also been arrested in separate incidents for other traffic-related offenses.

NYC panel clears way for mosque near ground zero

NEW YORK (AP)—A city panel Tuesday cleared the way for the construction near ground zero of a mosque that has caused a political uproar over religious freedom and Sept. 11 even as opponents vowed to press their case in

court. The Landmarks Preservation Commission voted unanimously to deny landmark status to a building two blocks from the World Trade Center site that developers want to tear down and convert into an Islamic community center and mosque. The panel said the 152-year-old lower Manhattan building isn't distinctive enough to be considered a landmark. The decision drew praise from Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who stepped before cameras on Governor's Island with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop shortly after the panel voted and called the mosque project a key test of Americans' commitment to religious freedom.

30-year-old Houston woman has healthy quintuplets

HOUSTON (AP)—A Houston woman has given birth to quintuplets with the help of 23 doctors in two operating rooms. Thirty-year-old Veronica Mayorga-Real delivered the three girls and two boys by Cesarean section Saturday at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston. Aaron, Priscilla, Matilde, Joel and Isaac weighed between 2 pounds 14 ounces and nearly 4 pounds. Dr. Ursula Nawab said Tuesday the babies required no support beyond oxygen, and two are already breathing on their own. The infants were born at 29 weeks—or 11 weeks premature—and will stay in the hospital for another six to eight weeks. There are only about 100 known sets of quintuplets in the world. Mayorga-Real and her husband, Enrique Mayorga, were using fertility drugs.

Asia

Deadly flooding spreads to Pakistan's heartland

KOT ADDU, Pakistan (AP)—Floodwaters surged into Pakistan's heartland and swallowed dozens of villages Tuesday, adding to a week of destruction that has already ravaged the mountainous northwest and killed 1,500 people.

The rush of muddy water over river banks in Punjab threatened to destroy vast stretches of crops that make the province Pakistan's breadbasket, prompting the U.N. to warn that an estimated 1.8 million people will need to be fed in the coming weeks.

Adding to the misery, fresh rains in the northwest threatened to overwhelm a major dam and unleash a new deluge, while rescue workers struggled to deliver aid to some 3.2 million people affected by the floods despite washed-out bridges and roads and downed communication lines.

The government has struggled to cope with the scale of the disaster at a time when it is grappling with a faltering economy and a brutal war against the Taliban.

Several foreign countries and aid organizations have stepped in to support the government, including the United States, which announced Tuesday that it was sending six large military helicopters from Afghanistan to



In this aerial photograph flood water covers the land as far as the eye can see, around Taunsa near Multan, Pakistan, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010. **AP**

help with the relief effort.

But many flood victims have complained that aid is not reaching them fast enough or at all. That anger could grow as floodwaters surge through Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province.

"We just ran away with our children, leaving behind every-

thing," said Fateh Mohammad, who was caught by surprise when water breached a protection bank in the Kot Addu area.

"All our possessions are drowned in the water. We have nothing," said Mohammad, who was evacuated along with some 4,500 others by the army on boats and helicopters.

Water levels were so high in large tracts of Kot Addu and the nearby area of Layyah in the south of the province, that only treetops and uppermost floors of some buildings were visible, footage shot by an Associated Press Television News cameraman on a helicopter showed. People sought refuge on roof-

tops and tried to bring their livestock up as far as possible.

Ghulam Mustafa, a resident of a small town near Kot Addu, said he was also surprised by the flooding and had to leave behind three of his children who live at a religious school when he escaped with the rest of his family.

US negotiator says NKorea not ready for talks

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea's recent actions indicate it is not yet ready to rejoin multilateral talks aimed at getting it to give up its nuclear weapons program, a senior U.S. negotiator said Wednesday.

Robert Einhorn, the State Department's special adviser for nonproliferation and arms control, said North Korea's recent alleged sinking of a South Korean warship—which Pyongyang denies—and its aggressive rhetoric suggest it is not willing to make serious commitments toward denuclearization.

"I don't know that we are ready today to resume those talks," Einhorn told reporters in

Tokyo. "North Korea's actions raise legitimate questions about whether they are willing to live up to their commitments."

Five nations—China, Russia, South Korea, the U.S. and Japan—have been trying for years to convince North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program in exchange for aid and other concessions.

North Korea walked out of those talks last year after being condemned by the U.N. Security Council for firing a long-range rocket. Weeks later, North Korea carried out a nuclear test, its second.

Both nuclear tests resulted in Security Council resolutions, one in 2006 which imposed

sanctions and another in 2009 that tightened them.

The U.S. and South Korean accuse North Korea of sinking a South Korean warship in March, killing 46 sailors in the worst military attack on the South since the 1950-53 Korean War.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced new sanctions against North Korea during a recent visit to Seoul. Einhorn said on Monday those measures would further isolate the North financially and pinpoint "illicit and deceptive" activities such as drug trafficking, currency counterfeiting and the banned trade in conventional arms.

Rights group slams RP abortion ban

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A U.S.-based rights group urged the Philippines on Monday to reform a tough anti-abortion law that it says has spawned widespread underground procedures that kill about 1,000 women each year in the predominantly Roman Catholic country.

An estimated 560,000 women in the Philippines in 2008 sought abortion involving crude and painful methods such as intense abdominal massages by traditional midwives or inserting catheters into the uterus, said a report by the New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights.

About 90,000 women suffer from abortion complications and an estimated 1,000 die each

year, the report said, adding that complications are among the top 10 reasons women seek hospital care.

The Roman Catholic church in the Philippines has stridently opposed the use of contraceptives and abortion. The existing law forbids abortion and is unclear about any exceptions in which it might be permitted, effectively making it a total ban, the report said. The law imposes up to six years imprisonment for women who commit intentional abortion and for doctors or midwives who help them.

And while post-abortion services are legal, women who seek them are often harassed or stigmatized even by health care workers, the report said.

3 children, 1 teacher killed in China attack

BEIJING (AP)—A knife-wielding man went on a slashing rampage in a kindergarten in eastern China, leaving three children and one teacher dead, area residents reported Wednesday.

The unidentified assailant entered the school in a suburb of Zibo in Shandong province at about 4 p.m. Tuesday as parents were picking up their children, according to people living nearby contacted by telephone.

About 20 children and staff were injured, two of the children seriously, they said.

China this year has suffered a spate of gory rampage attacks on schools and in public spaces, leaving dozens of people dead and scores wounded.

A woman who works in a restaurant opposite the Boshan District Experimental Kindergarten's Jinfengyuan branch said the attacker was a man aged 27 or 28 who had gained entry to the school by posing as a parent.

Police rushed to the kindergarten soon after the attack and officers transported some injured children to hospital before ambulances had time to arrive, said the woman, who would give only her surname, Zhang.

"The kindergarten has been sealed off until now. There're still police officers there," Zhang said.

Zhang and other area residents said the teacher died of her injuries Wednesday morning.

The Zibo killings came just two days after a man in Hebei province to the west went on a rampage at the wheel of his earthmover, smashing vehicles and buildings and leaving 17 dead.



ASIAN BRIEFS

4 die as Kashmiris protest en masse despite curfew

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Four people were killed Tuesday as thousands of protesters ignored police warnings they would be shot on sight if they defied a round-the-clock curfew declared in Indian-controlled Kashmir in an attempt to quell weeks of deadly civil unrest against Indian rule. More than 20 people were injured in clashes with government forces as they gathered or marched in the main city of Srinagar and two villages, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Two protesters were killed in Srinagar where government forces fired at hundreds who hurled rocks and shouted, "Go India! Go back!" and "We want freedom." The news of those casualties brought out more demonstrators, the officer said. Another person was killed in the firing by government forces in southern village of Frisal where thousands of protesters

set a police station on fire, the officer said. At least 15 people were wounded, six critically.

19 coal workers killed in two mines in China

BEIJING (AP)—Gas exploded at a Chinese coal mine Tuesday, killing 10 people and trapping seven just hours after lethal gas leaked into another coal mine and killed nine, state media said. The gas explosion happened around 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the southern province of Guizhou, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. The report had no other details. The news agency earlier Tuesday reported that nine workers were killed and seven were trapped late Monday in a "gas outburst" at Sanyuandong Coal Mine in Dengfeng city in the central province of Henan. Of the 127 miners underground at the time, 111 escaped unharmed, according to an official with the Zhengzhou Coal Industry Co. Ltd., which runs the Sanyuandong mine. The company

could not be reached by phone.

Powerful quake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck waters off of eastern Indonesia on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of damage and officials said there was no threat of a tsunami. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.3 and was centered off Sulawesi island, around 26 miles (42 kilometers) beneath the ocean floor. Some buildings shook in Manado, 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of the epicenter, and in the nearby cities of Bitung and Tondano. But Deny Hendrawanto, an official at Indonesia's earthquake monitoring office, said there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. Dr. Fauzi, chief of the agency, said there also was no threat of a tsunami. Like many Indonesians, Fauzi uses just one name.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Qaida-linked group claims tanker attack in Gulf

CAIRO (AP)—An obscure al-Qaida-linked group says a suicide bomber attacked a Japanese oil tanker in the Persian Gulf last week. There have been conflicting reports about what happened to the M. Star super-tanker, which was damaged in the Strait of Hormuz - a transit point for about 40 percent of tanker-shipped oil worldwide. The Brigades of Abdullah Az-zam has claimed responsibility for attacking the vessel in an Internet statement posted Wednesday. A crew member was injured and the tanker sustained a square-shaped dent on the rear side of the hull. The militant group gave no details. The statement has a picture of the purported bomber pointing to a photograph of the tanker on a laptop. The ship's owner Mitsui O.S.K. Lines says it's investigating the claim.

Kenya votes on new constitution amid high security

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Long lines of voters formed before sunrise in the Kenyan capital early Wednesday, as voters cast ballots on a new constitution that would reduce the powers of the presidency and give citizens a bill of rights. Leaders here have called on the country to carry out a peaceful referendum, and police say they are better placed to deal with any post-vote violence than during the 2007-08 killing spree after the disputed presidential election. "People were here as early as 3 a.m.," said George Rabalah, an elections worker at a school in Kibera, Nairobi's largest slum. "They are so anxious to vote."

Diplomats won't apologize for Mugabe walkout

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—American and European diplomats say they were summoned to Zimbabwe's foreign ministry and asked to apologize for walking out of a speech in which President Robert Mugabe attacked the West. U.S. Ambassador Charles Ray said Tuesday he refused to apologize for walking out of a state funeral Sunday after Mugabe told Western nations to "go to hell" after alleging that they interfered in Zimbabwean affairs. The U.S. is Zimbabwe's biggest aid donor. Ray said he followed normal diplomatic protocols in attending the funeral of Mugabe's sister Sabina, who died aged 80. But he said that when Mugabe began his invective, "we walked away as we were very disappointed in his conduct, so we have nothing to apologize for."

Mexico: 28,000 killed in drug violence since 2006

MEXICO CITY (AP)—President Felipe Calderon said he would consider a debate on legalizing drugs Tuesday as his government announced that more than 28,000 people have been killed in drug violence since he launched a crackdown against cartels in 2006.

Intelligence agency director Guillermo Valdes also said authorities have confiscated about 84,000 weapons and made total cash seizures of \$411 million in U.S. currency and \$26 million worth in pesos (330 million pesos).

Valdes released the statistics during a meeting with Calderon and representatives of business and civic groups, where attendees exploring ways to improve Mexico's anti-drug strategy called on the government to open a debate on legalization.

Calderon said he has taken note of the idea of legally regulating drugs in the past.

"It's a fundamental debate in which I think, first of all, you must allow a democratic plurality (of opinions)," he said. "You



Alleged drug traffickers stand behind packages of seized marijuana as they are presented to the press in Tijuana, Mexico, Wednesday July 21, 2010.

have to analyze carefully the pros and cons and the key arguments on both sides."

Three former presidents—Cesar Gaviria of Colombia, Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and Fernando Cardoso of Brazil—

urged Latin American countries last year to consider legalizing marijuana to undermine a major source of income for cartels. And Mexico's congress also has debated the issue.

But Calderon has so far said

he is opposed to the idea.

"I'm not talking just about marijuana," analyst and writer Hector Aguilar Camin said in proposing the debate Tuesday, "rather all drugs in general."

The most recent official toll of

Lebanon, Israel clash near border; at least four dead

ADEISSEH, Lebanon (AP)—Lebanese and Israeli troops exchanged fire Tuesday in a fierce border battle that killed a senior Israeli officer, two Lebanese soldiers and a journalist—underlining how easily tensions can re-ignite along the frontier where Israel and Hezbollah fought a war four years ago.

It was the worst fighting since 2006 in the area, where Israeli and Lebanese soldiers patrol within shouting distance of each other, separated by the U.N.-drawn Blue Line boundary.

The fighting flared into Israeli tank, helicopter and artillery strikes near this Lebanese town, but ended after several hours and there was no sign that either side was preparing to escalate.

The Shiite guerrilla force Hezbollah said it offered to help the Lebanese army but in the end did not get involved. "We told our brothers, control yourselves and don't do anything," Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah in a televised speech.

But, he warned, his fighters would intervene if Israeli troops ever attack Lebanese forces again. "Any Israeli arm extended against the Lebanese military will be cut off by the resistance," said Nasrallah, whose arsenal is far more powerful than the Lebanese army's.

Tuesday's violence stoked fears that have been brewing for months on both sides that a new conflict could come soon.

The U.N. Security Council urged "utmost restraint." U.S. State Department spokesman

P.J. Crowley said, "The last thing that we want to see is this incident expand into something more significant." Both the U.S. and the U.N. said they were working to determine the exact circumstances of the fight.

Tuesday's clashes began after an Israeli soldier tried to remove a tree along the border, something the military has done in the past to improve its sightlines into Lebanon.

But both sides claimed the tree was in their territory. An Associated Press photo shows an Israeli standing on a crane reaching over the fence that Israel erected to separate the two countries. The fence, however, does not match the Blue Line in all places, and the Israeli military said in a statement that the tree was in Israeli territory.

"It was over the fence but still within Israeli territory," the military spokesman's office said. He said the tree cutting was coordinated with the U.N. peacekeeping force in south Lebanon, UNIFIL.

The Lebanese military said the Israelis crossed onto Lebanese soil despite calls from the U.N. and Lebanon to stop. When the Israelis persisted, Lebanese troops opened fire with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, it said in a statement.

The Israeli forces responded with "machine guns and tank shells, targeting Lebanese army positions and civilian homes in the area," the Lebanese military said. It said two soldiers were killed and a third seriously wounded.

Wyclef bro: Haiti presidential bid 'very serious'

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Wyclef Jean's planned run for Haiti's presidency is bound to make entertainment headlines, but the hip-hop artist's brother knows trying to take charge of this earthquake-devastated and politically unstable country is a deadly serious affair.

Schoolhouse charts of past leaders are crowded with monthslong presidencies and group shots of the military juntas that overthrew them. Heads of state have been flown into exile, crowned themselves emperor or been killed more often than they have completed constitutional five-year terms. One president was torn limb from limb by an angry mob.

Whoever wins the Nov. 28 election will face the Herculean task of rebuilding from the Jan. 12 magnitude-7 earthquake that killed a government-estimated 300,000 people while managing

billions in international reconstruction dollars amid feuding officials, families and an estimated 1.6 million earthquake homeless, all hungry—some more literally than others—for their share.

Jean is expected to announce his bid for the presidency on Thursday from Haiti.

After the Associated Press first reported that an announcement was coming, the singer's brother, Samuel Jean, said the Haitian-American family was going into the process with its eyes open and breath held.

"It's not something that was taken lightly, it's not a joke, it's something very, very serious," the younger Jean said by phone from his consultancy office in Los Angeles. "It is different for us, but we are proud of him and we are going to support him in any way we can."

The former Fugee was born

the drug war dead came in mid-June, when the attorney general said 24,800 had died. Valdes did not specify a time frame for the new statistics.

The government does not regularly break down murder statistics, but leading newspapers who kept their own counts say last month was the deadliest yet under Calderon: According to national daily Milenio, 1,234 were killed in July.

The Mexican government says most victims were involved in the drug trade.

Some attendees criticized the government for lacking consistent statistics on the drug war and an effective way to communicate its successes. They also said the government needs to do more to combat the financial arm of organized crime.

"There's no systematic policy for investigating or seizing the assets of organized crime," said Jose Luis Pineyro of Mexico's Autonomous Metropolitan University, "nor a system of locating the properties of organized crime."

on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince but grew up in Brooklyn. His published age is 37, but his 39-year-old brother said that in fact Wyclef is likely 40, ascribing the confusion in part to their history as immigrants and Haiti's often confusing record-keeping.

Scores of candidates are expected to compete for the presidency in the November contest. Among them is Jean's uncle Raymond Joseph, who is Haiti's ambassador in Washington. Other likely candidates include former prime ministers, mayors and another popular Haitian musician, Michel "Sweet Micky" Martelly.

Former Chamber of Deputies leader Pierre Eric Jean-Jacques told the AP the hip hop artist will run as part of his coalition in the election. Jean's brother said he could not immediately confirm what party the singer would run with.

Panama finds 3 more bodies at US man's hostel

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Authorities said they recovered three more bodies Tuesday on property owned by a jailed U.S. man who prosecutors say has confessed to killing five fellow Americans to get their money and property in a Panamanian resort area.

Jose Pachard, deputy director of the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, said the remains were found with the help of information provided by the suspect, William Dathan Holbert.

He said searchers found the bodies of an adult man, adult woman and child on the grounds of a hostel operated by Holbert. Two other bodies were found earlier, touching off a search for

Holbert and his wife.

Tests were planned to identify the latest remains. On Sunday, prosecutors quoted Holbert as admitting he killed a U.S. man named Mike Brown, his wife and small son about three years ago and buried them on his property.

The two other bodies were identified previously as Cheryl Lynn Hughes, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, who had lived in Panama 10 years and was reported missing in late March, and Bo Icelar, who disappeared in late November and was described by a friend as being from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Panamanian authorities said

Holbert and his wife, Laura Michelle Reese, had been charged with murder in the deaths of Hughes and Icelar.

Humberto Mas, director of the forensics institute, said Holbert refused on Tuesday to undergo a psychological analysis and asked for legal assistance.

Officials in the U.S. state of North Carolina have said Holbert disappeared about six years ago after he divorced his wife, sold his landscaping business and filed for bankruptcy. Holbert is alleged to have sold a house he didn't own and a car he stole, and police say he used aliases to elude authorities in at least six states.

Environment

Getting one's feet wet on all kinds of water

By **OILANG MAUI**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hello, Saipan! My name is Oilang Maui and while living out my last summer before leaving for college. I am interning with the Division of Environment Quality in the Non-point Source Pollution Department.

Though my mentor is Coral Reef Management Fellow Aric Bickel, I also work closely with Nick Swaim, Lao Lao Bay Field Coordinator, and two other summer interns.

Coming into this internship I knew I had a lot to learn, especially when I didn't even know the name of the department I was working in. Now that I'm halfway through the internship, I have successfully learned my department name, among other things.

If you're like me, you might be wondering: "What is this NPS? What does it mean?" Well, it took me a bit to understand. It's a very broad and somewhat vague term, but it's basically any kind of pollution that comes from a source that cannot be directly traced. One example is the flow of sediments into our ocean water. One of my biggest projects is helping out with the Laolao Bay Revegetation project. The goal is to



Oilang Maui at the bamboo stakes planting area D and L 001.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

reintroduce native plants in the Laolao uplands which will better hold the soil together, decreasing the amount of sediments that makes its way into the bay. This is important to do because the sediments affect coral growth and water turbidity among other things.

I also do work for "First Friday Films" project, which is a series of free, award-winning environmental films shown every first Friday of the month at American Memorial Park. (That is an example of my great advertising skills!) Most of my work for this involves graphic design, writing press releases, developing lobby

displays, researching presentation materials and more.

Aside from these projects, all interns participate in reef flat monitoring, and the upcoming tree planting at Laolao Bay. Speaking of tree planting for yet another project, a fellow intern and I are helping to organize another tree planting sometime in August.

Obviously, I am getting my feet wet in all kinds of water but that's what learning is all about. My internship has ranged from brushing up my writing skills to developing my outdoor skills and everything between, above, and

below—and I'm only halfway through. I am excited to see the final products of all my work, and having as many experiences as I can have this summer.

Free shark film tomorrow

It's that time of the month again! Tomorrow is the second First Friday Film event, which will feature a free viewing of 31 time award-winning documentary *Sharkwater* at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center at 7pm.

Sharkwater is a film documenting the exploitation and corruption surrounding the world's shark populations and the effect we are having on our ocean ecosystems by removing these important predators. Director Rob Stewart explores the culture of fear that has contributed to the mismanagement of these creatures as well as the multi-billion dollar industry that has led many shark species to the brink of extinction. Stewart's journey to explore the last safe havens left for sharks inadvertently pits him against black-market



industry leaders and leads him on an adventure that threatens not only the life of many of these species but also his own.

This film along with every other "First Friday Film" is free and open to the public. Further information on the event can be found at www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com. (PR)

Back-to-school in green fashion

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Back-to-school time brings the rush for new lunchboxes, school supplies, and clothing. Most of the time, we're so busy crossing items off our lists we don't have time to worry about whether the item is eco-friendly or not.

Here's how you can Do Your Part while you shop without spending extra money or time. And don't worry; these ideas are cool enough for even the coolest kids.

If your child will carry a lunchbox this year, strive to pack lunches that are 100 percent waste-free. Start with a reusable lunchbox or bag, keeping an eye open for one made from recycled material. Invest in a few reusable food containers to cut down on those single-use plastic baggies.

Keep in mind the types of food items you'll be packing as you choose between sizes. And don't forget you can reuse small plastic containers of foods that you've already purchased such as lunchmeats, cheeses, and butter. Fill up a reusable bottle with

their favorite drink.

And for cutlery, pack a cheap fork and spoon then toss in a reusable napkin or one made from recycled paper. Don't worry about reusable items being tossed in the trash because with this lunch system, your kids won't need to visit the garbage can. Everything gets packed up and comes right back home. You can also save money on your weekly grocery shopping by choosing bulk food items and creating your own single size servings.

School supplies are a biggie. Before shopping, make sure there aren't perfectly good backpacks, binders, or pencil pouches from last year that you can reuse. If you do need to go new, look for binders and clipboards made from recycled plastic or notebooks and journals constructed of recycled paper. Even cool pencil pouches can be found made from recycled juice boxes, among other things.

And who can forget the new clothes? We know kids agonize over the perfect back to school outfits but you don't

need to break the bank to get them dressed. Children and teen resale shops have brand name clothes in gently used, broken-in condition. Sometimes you even get lucky and find brand new items with the tags still attached.

Another idea, especially for girls, is to host a clothing swap before school starts. Have each girl bring gently used items they no longer wear and let them swap with their friends.

For new clothing items, look for ones made from sustainable sources and treated with minimal amounts of potentially hazardous chemicals. Items made of organic cotton and denim are a good place to start. Try to avoid clothing labeled wrinkle resistance, stain-proof or odor resistant, which are commonly treated with untested chemicals.

There's no better time than right now to make sure your kids are practicing the 3 R's—reduce, reuse, and recycle. Do Your Part and teach them how they too can help care for our planet by giving used items a second life and choosing products made from recycled materials.

Tips on how to protect eyes, skin from the sun's harmful rays

» Download sun safety information on smartphones

WASHINGTON D.C.—Overexposure to the sun can cause skin cancer and eye damage during any time of the year, regardless of skin color.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched an application for smartphones that gives users mobile access to the daily UV index forecast in their area. This application provides Americans with a new way to check the sun's intensity and plan outdoor activities accordingly. The app provides users with a numeric index ranging from 0 to 11+ (higher numbers indicate greater amounts of skin-damaging UV radiation), and tips to protect the skin and eyes.

In addition to this new app, EPA has issued "Health Effects of Ultraviolet Radiation," a fact sheet intended for older adults and their caregivers. The fact sheet describes how UV radiation plays a role in the development of age-related macular degeneration and skin cancer.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the

United States. More people were diagnosed with skin cancer in 2009 than with breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancer combined. One American dies every hour from skin cancer. Overexposure to UV radiation may suppress proper functioning of the body's immune system and skin's natural defenses. All people, regardless of skin color, are vulnerable

courages sun safety and teaches children and their caregivers how to protect themselves from overexposure to the sun. The program is now in more than 25,000 schools and 4,500 camps, science and children's museums, daycare centers, and other community-based organizations nationwide. SunWise schools and communities receive materials that encourage

sun-safe infrastructures, including shade structures (e.g., canopies, trees) and policies (e.g., using hats, sunscreen, sunglasses) to promote sun protection.

EPA's Aging Initiative focuses on protecting the environmental health of older Americans. By 2030, the number of older persons in the United States is expected to double to more than 70 million. As we age, our bodies may become more susceptible to environmental hazards because of the diminished capacity of various organ systems that occur in the natural aging process. In addition, the Aging Initiative encourages older people to volunteer in their communities to reduce hazards and protect the environment. (EPA)

to the effects of UV radiation.

Sun safety tips:

■ Do not burn—overexposure to the sun is the most preventable risk factor for skin cancer

■ Seek shade, especially between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when UV radiation is most intense.

■ Wear wide-brimmed hats, protective clothing, and sunglasses that block 99-100 percent of UV radiation.

■ Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least 15 on all exposed skin.

■ Check the UV Index.

■ Avoid sun tanning and tanning beds.

EPA's SunWise program en-

ON THE NET

- To download the UV Index smartphone app: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/mobile/>
- More information on the SunWise program: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/>
- More information on EPA's Aging Initiative and to download the fact sheet: <http://www.epa.gov/aging/index.htm>



"Do Your Part," and choose back-to-school items made from recycled materials.

MCT

Life & Style

De Niro, Brooklyn, India on last Kodachrome roll

By BEN DOBBIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)—What should a photographer shoot when he is entrusted with the very last roll of Kodachrome?

Steve McCurry took aim at the Brooklyn Bridge, Grand Central Terminal and a few human icons, too. Paul Simon, the crooner synonymous with the fabled film's richly saturated colors, shied away. But Robert De Niro stood in for the world of filmmaking.

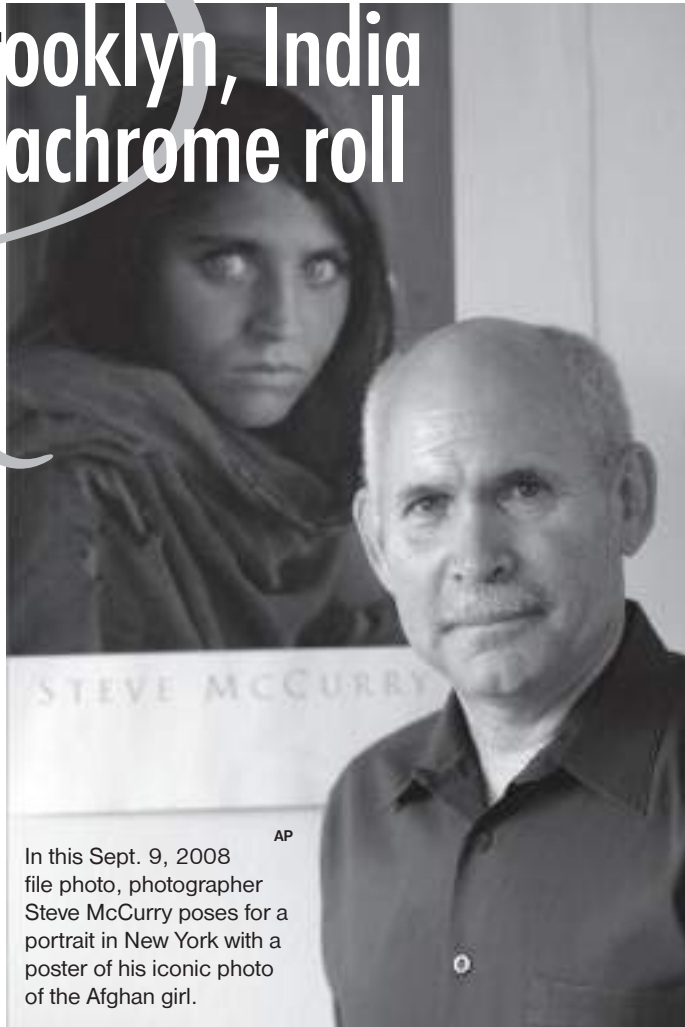
Then McCurry headed from his base in New York City to southern Asia, where in 1984 he shot a famous portrait of a green-eyed Afghan refugee girl that made the cover of National Geographic. In India, he snapped a tribe whose nomadic way of life is disappearing — just as Kodachrome is.

The world's first commercially successful color film, extolled since the Great Depression for its sharpness, archival durability and vibrant yet realistic hues, "makes you think," as Simon sings, "all the world's a sunny day."

Kodachrome enjoyed its mass-market heyday in the 1960s and '70s before being eclipsed by video and easy-to-process color negative films, the kind that prints are made from. It garnered its share of spectacular images, none more iconic than Abraham Zapruder's reel of President John Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

But Mama Time is taking Kodachrome away, and McCurry feels the tug of nostalgia even as he loads Eastman Kodak Co.'s last manufactured roll into his Nikon F6, just as he's done "so many tens of thousands of times."

From that moment on, "there's



In this Sept. 9, 2008 AP file photo, photographer Steve McCurry poses for a portrait in New York with a poster of his iconic photo of the Afghan girl.

a certain amount of observation and walking around — exploring, hunting, moving," McCurry said of his craft. "It's not all about taking pictures. It's about appreciating this world we live in for such a brief amount of time."

"I thought, what better way to kind of honor the memory of the film than to try and photograph iconic places and people? It's in (my) DNA to want to tell stories where the action is, that shed light on the human condition."

Betting its future on digital photography, Kodak discontinued the slide and motion-picture film with a production run last August in which a master sheet nearly a mile (1.6 kilometers) long was cut up into more than 20,000 rolls.

McCurry requested the final 36-exposure strip. After nine

months of planning, he embarked in June on a six-week odyssey. Trailing him was a TV crew from National Geographic Channel, which plans to broadcast a one-hour documentary early next year.

National Geographic magazine is considering doing a spread on McCurry's trip that would include a handful of images. All the originals are destined for air-conditioned safekeeping at the George Eastman House film and photography museum in Rochester.

McCurry relied on a digital camera to help evaluate composition, perspective and light, but choosing the moment to press the shutter was pressure-packed. Even seasoned photographers have a hard time knowing when "you're going to get

that one emotional component to the picture," McCurry said.

His nerves were jangled again when he had to run the loaded camera through airport X-ray machines in Italy and Turkey. One security guard joked, "Oh, take a picture," which was kind of funny because we were trying to make every frame count."

McCurry returned to old haunts in western India where "color is important culturally," drawing on Kodachrome's magical power to subtly render contrast and color harmony in depictions of Ribari tribespeople in Rajasthan and Bollywood luminaries in Mumbai.

His journey ended in July in small-town Parsons, Kansas, the home of Dwayne's Photo, the last photo lab in the world that processes the elaborately crafted color-reversal film. Dwayne's will close that part of its business in December.

"It's not a process like black-and-white that hobbyists could do in their own dark room," co-owner Grant Steinle said, warning Kodachrome hoarders "they really need to get out and shoot those pictures" and perhaps shift over to newer lines of slide film like Ektachrome and Fujichrome.

In McCurry's roll, one or two exposures were a little off, but he was pleased with the results. In one self-portrait, he posed next to a Kodak-yellow taxicab bearing the license plate PKR 36 — the code name for Professional Kodachrome film; in another, he's sprawled on a hotel bed at journey's end.

McCurry has a personal archive of 800,000 Kodachrome images he takes good care of. But in late July, he chanced upon a batch of 1969 and 1972 Kodachromes he'd put in storage in Philadelphia long ago and forgotten about. The discovery got him reminiscing about his days as a hungry photographer hopping from Amsterdam to Africa to Soviet-era Bulgaria.

Audio archives of William Faulkner available online

By ZINIE CHEN SAMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)—William Faulkner wrote detailed portraits of life in Mississippi's fictional Yoknapatawpha County, often using long, winding sentences in densely packed paragraphs.

Newly available recordings at the University of Virginia allow people to hear Faulkner's soft drawl by listening to him talk about his writing, his career and current events. Listeners also can hear him explain to students how to pronounce "Yoknapatawpha (Yok nuh puh TAW' fuh)," the setting for his numerous works, including "The Sound and the Fury," "As I Lay Dying" and "Absalom, Absalom!"

Faulkner spent 1957 and 1958 as the university's first writer-in-residence, giving lectures and readings and chatting with students and members of the community. Two professors at the Charlottesville school recorded his talks on reel-to-reel tapes, and after a 15-year effort led by English professor Stephen Railton, the result is now online.

Being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1949 and winning his first Pulitzer Prize in 1955 for his novel "A Fable" (his second came posthumously in 1963 for "The Reivers") thrust the shy and largely reclusive writer into the public eye.

The university recordings show that Faulkner took pleasure in reaching a wider audience, Railton said in a recent interview.

"I think he's come to see that the artist needs to be in contact with the larger public," he said. "It's good for the art and good for the public."

"Faulkner at Virginia: An Au-

dio Archive" contains about 28 hours of the author's speeches, readings of his works and his answers to more than 1,400 questions. All the audio is transcribed and presented in small segments that are searchable by keyword, and users are able to bookmark specific clips.

While Faulkner is gracious and candid in answering audience questions, he is sometimes unwilling to explicitly define the themes and ideas readers discovered in his books.

"I didn't know about all these things and so I'm quite interested to hear that they were in there," he tells one student. "They must've been in there for people to find them."

Faulkner did not want to come between his writing and the readers; he wanted them to interpret stories on their own, Railton said.

He also discusses other writers' works, admiring Ernest Hemingway and telling students that he sympathizes with the alienation felt by Holden Caulfield, the narrator of J.D. Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye."

Of Tennessee Williams, he says "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" focused on the wrong characters: "The story was the old man's story," he says. "I think that the anguishes of children ain't worth three acts."

Advances in technology have made it possible to give more depth to American literature, said Railton, who has also compiled digital collections of Mark Twain and the role of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in American culture.

And he and others hope that hearing Faulkner will inspire people to reading Faulkner.

"This is where I want people to end up, lost in Faulkner's fiction," Railton said. "When they read the books, it'll mean more."

POP CULTURE Q&A

By RICH HELDENFELS
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Q: When "CSI: Miami" started years ago, there was a young actor named Rory Cochrane who played Tim Speedle. He left to do movies. I saw him in one with Keanu Reeves—then nothing. Is he doing anything now?

A: An interest in other roles and weariness with TV work prompted Cochrane to leave the series after two seasons. He told the Web site CSI Files at the time: "I felt (the show) was never-ending and the grind was a lot. It's nice being on a hit show and the viewers are very supportive, but I couldn't really take it any more." But he still had a contractual commitment to the show and was brought back for an episode during its sixth season.

He has also been in the movies "A Scanner Darkly" (the Keanu Reeves movie you mentioned), "Public Enemies" and "Right at Your Door." He is in "Passion Play," an upcoming movie with Bill Murray, Mickey Rourke and Megan Fox. He played a Russian spy in "The Company," a TNT miniseries about the CIA, and

Rory Cochrane quits the TV grind

was on 24 for part of a season.

Q: On "America's Got Talent" this season, there was a 24-year-old opera singer by the name of Carlos who was eliminated from the finals by the judges. That was a shock to me! Did any opera group pick him up? Has he been selected by any talent agent? He was really a STAR. Some of my friends and I would love to know what has become of him.

A: That was Carlos Aponte, a singer from Puerto Rico. I have not seen anything about his plans, but his prospects look good. A YouTube video of his appearance has been viewed more than 800,000 times, and numerous blogs have talked him up.

Q: I am trying to find the name of an old black-and-white vampire movie. The only info I can give you is at the end a young man and a young lady get into a horse-drawn

sleigh and there is snow everywhere. And I believe an old man waves goodbye to them. That's all I can remember.

A: Well, it wasn't in black-and-white, but this sure sounds like "The Fearless Vampire Killers, or Pardon Me But Your Teeth are in My Neck," a 1967 movie by director Roman Polanski. The movie, which Polanski wanted to call "Dance of the Vampires," was heavily edited before its theatrical release in the U.S. But it has been more recently visible in Polanski's original version, including on DVD.

Q: Can you please tell me if "The Tudors" will be on again? Really a good show. The actors did a fine job. I think it was on Showtime.

A: The final episode of the series about Henry VIII aired in June. Three seasons are also on DVD. The fourth and final one is available for preorder on Amazon.com, but I have not yet seen a release date.

Q: I recall years ago, seeing a PBS show called "Mother-in-Law," starring Diana Rigg. At the time, I was remiss and did not tape it. Unfortunately, I have never been able to obtain a copy of it. I had just about given up, when I saw your column recently, and thought: "Why not give it a try, and contact Rich and see if he can help."

A: I suspect you are remembering "Mother Love," a delightfully nasty miniseries starring Rigg as a woman whose need to control her son leads to some extreme behavior. It aired on public television in 1989, and the cast also included "NCIS's" David McCallum as Rigg's ex-husband. Unfortunately, as far as I can tell, it has not found its way to home video.

Do you have a question or comment about movies, TV and other popular culture? Write to rheldenfels@thebeaconjournal.com or the Akron Beacon Journal, 44 E. Exchange St., Akron, OH 44309. Please mark the note for Mailbag and do not phone in questions. Letters may be edited. Individual replies cannot be guaranteed.

Bristol Palin calls it quits with fiance Johnston

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston have called off their second engagement after he told her he may have fathered a baby with another girl.

Palin declined to identify the other girl to People magazine, but a pregnant ex-girlfriend of Johnston has publicly denied he is the father.

Palin, the 19-year-old daughter of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, said Johnston told her about the baby on July 14, the day the couple announced their re-engagement. Bristol Palin and the 20-year-old Johnston have a toddler son together, Tripp.

Representatives for Palin and Johnston did not immediately return requests for comment Tuesday.

Palin had said she didn't have her mother's full support over reconnecting with Johnston. She said both her mother and father worried she would get hurt again.

Palin said the "final straw" was when Johnston told her he was going to Hollywood to see a hunting show, but actually went there to star in a music video mocking her family. In the video being shot this month in Los Angeles, Johnston will play a lover whose romance is thwarted by his girlfriend's disapproving mother. The project is based on the song "After Love" by singer-songwriter Brittani Senser.

"He's just obsessed with the



This Sept. 3, 2008 file photo shows Bristol Palin, daughter of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and former Republican vice presidential candidate, and Levi Johnston at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

limelight, and I got played," Palin told People.

Relations between the Palins and Johnston and his family have been strained since the couple broke off their first engagement soon after Tripp was born in December 2008. Bristol Palin later became a public advocate for abstinence.

The relationship later devolved into a messy tabloid drama as Johnston posed nude for Playgirl and

trashed Sarah Palin in interviews. The sudden re-engagement marked a rapid turnaround for the couple that just months ago was fighting over child support and Johnston's criticism of her family.

Sarah Palin, the 2008 GOP vice presidential nominee, told People that she hopes her daughter will "move forward in life with her same forgiving, gracious, optimistic spirit, but from henceforth she'll know to trust but verify."

Extra security for model Campbell at Taylor trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—War crimes judges on Tuesday ordered special security measures for fashion model Naomi Campbell when she testifies at the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, barring photographers from catching her entering or leaving the courtroom.

The judges say Campbell's fears for her safety and privacy are legitimate because of her high profile and the intense media interest in her appearance.

In its ruling, the Special Court for Sierra Leone instructed authorities to ensure that no one photograph, video tape or even sketch Campbell in or around the courtroom.

Her testimony, however, will be recorded as usual by courtroom cameras.

She is due to appear Thursday, but judges have not yet decided on a motion submitted last week by Taylor's lawyers to delay her appearance.

Measures to protect witnesses in war crimes cases are routine, especially when disclosure of their iden-

tity could subsequently endanger them or their families. Such witnesses testify under pseudonyms and with their images blurred in recordings of their testimony.

But blocking the media from photographing a known witness is highly unusual.

The court did not go as far as Campbell had wanted. She had asked the judges for a gag order on all information "gleaned about her stay at the court" apart from her public testimony.

Campbell was summoned to testify about whether she received diamonds from Taylor after a celebrity-studded dinner in South Africa in 1997. Taylor is accused of trading in "blood diamonds" in exchange for helping rebel factions during the 11-year civil war in Sierra Leone. He has denied possessing such conflict diamonds.

The court granted Campbell's request to have a lawyer present, but restricted the attorney's intervention to protecting her from possible self-incrimination on the stand.



Campbell

An interview with Luke Wilson

By **LEWIS BEALE**
NEWSDAY

Luke Wilson, youngest of the acting Wilson brothers (Owen and Andrew being the others), has carved out a pleasing niche for himself playing mostly charming nice guys and romantic leads in films like "Legally Blonde," "Old School" and "My Super Ex-Girlfriend." The 38-year-old Dallas native made his film debut in 1994, when brother Owen and director Wes Anderson cast him in the indie classic "Bottle Rocket," and he's been working steadily ever since.

This year, in addition to the ubiquitous AT&T commercials he stars in, Wilson will be popping up in an HBO comedy series, and this Friday he opens in "Middle Men," a based-on-fact flick about the early days of Internet porn. Lewis Beale caught up with the low-key actor during a production break on his HBO series.

Q. In your latest film, "Middle Men," you play a businessman who helps two grubby entrepreneurs set up the first pay-per-view, online porn site. What attracted you to the project?

A. It's a different kind of part for me, and I'm glad when people think of me for different things. For years, journalists have said to me, "You sure play a lot of nice boyfriends," so when something different comes my way, that drew me to it. I've never had a role where I could research a business, so it was interesting to learn about that stuff.

Q. You're also working on an HBO series called "Enlightened," in which Laura Dern stars as a self-destructive woman who has a personal revelation and decides to live an enlightened life. What role do you play in the series?

A. I play her kind of troubled ex-husband she's still close to. He's a loner, has drug and alcohol issues, doesn't think he has a problem. It's a different kind of part, and that's always a good thing, and it was created and written by Mike White, who I've always been a fan of. So when this came across the table, I immediately wanted to do it.

Q. You're the youngest of three brothers. Owen and Andrew are also actors. And it seems you're all pretty close. How come?

A. We've always kind of been close. We have differences, but we

were always friends. My parents always encouraged us to be friends. I was just always kind of following them around, I was just glad to be with them.

Q. When you were a kid, your dad was the manager of the PBS affiliate in Dallas. Was that what got you interested in show business?

A. Public TV in Dallas then was something different. Dallas had culture, but it was a sports and oil town. It definitely felt like he was doing something different. I would walk around the set of the news show, there were these hippie crew guys who were nice to me, and it piqued my interest as a kid. I was also interested in the newspaper business, being around the guys my dad was around. I was a fan of the metro section and the crime stories.

Q. So how did you get started in acting?

A. We were always just movie lovers. We were always into movies, and always what I read about was musicians, actors, directors, but never wanting to get into it. It was Owen, and Wes sort of getting me involved. They wanted to make a short film, (which eventually became "Bottle Rocket") and they decided I was going to act in it, and that's how it happened.

Q. There's a cult around "Idiocracy," a 2006 film you starred in about a future society in which you play a slacker from the past who's the smartest person on the planet. The film was dumped by its studio, and it was reported that you were really unhappy about that decision.

A. I never publicly said I was really upset. I don't know who made the decision to dump it and why, but when you see a horrible movie with not an original idea and a studio gets behind it, why not get behind a film with an original idea?

Q. I read that you ran track and field in high school. Do you still follow the sport?

A. I do. I read stuff in the papers, and follow the Olympics. I think it's an incredible sport, and it's some of my best experiences as a kid. I had a great track coach, who helped me as a kid. You're never thinking of an identity, and that did give me a feeling of self-worth. I ran the 880 and the 440. And I still have a couple of school records.



Native Dallas, Texas, actor Luke Wilson, with brother Andrew, is directing himself and brother Owen, not pictured in "The Wendell Baker Story," which is being filmed in Austin, Texas.

MCT

China to import hit sci-fi thriller 'Inception'

BY MIN LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONG KONG (AP)—Christopher Nolan's "Inception" will be released in China, the country's film importer said Tuesday, giving a lucrative foreign market to a sci-fi thriller that already has become a global sensation.

China Film Group will give the Warner Bros. production one of its coveted 20 annual slots for revenue-sharing imports, Yuan Wenqiang, an executive who oversees imports for the state-owned company, told The Associated Press in a phone interview. The 148-minute film has already cleared Chinese censors, he said.

China splits revenues with foreign studios on 20 of their movies every year—a rule that effectively limits the country to 20 foreign blockbusters a



In this film publicity file photo provided by Warner Bros., Leonardo DiCaprio is shown in a scene from "Inception."

conflicting dates. The news website Sina.com said Sept. 21 in a report last week, but another website, Sohu.com, said Wednesday the date had been advanced to Sept. 2.

"Inception," which is also being released in IMAX format, will face off against a slew of Chinese-language blockbusters in September—Zhang Yimou's "The Love of the Hawthorn Tree" (Sept. 16), Andrew Lau's "The Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen" (Sept. 21) and the John Woo-produced "Reign of Assassins" (Sept. 28), both kung fu thrillers, as well as Tsui Hark's "Detective Dee and the Mystery of the Phantom Flame," Sina.com reported.

Despite the rapid growth of the Chinese box office, it still lags behind American ticket revenues. But the recent success of James Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar" proved that Hollywood blockbusters can generate earnings on the same scale in China as they do domestically. The global box office champion of all-time raked in a massive \$204 million in the country earlier this year, compared with nearly \$750 million in the United States.

Hollywood's leading trade association has lobbied Beijing for better access for years, but

the Chinese government hasn't budged. A World Trade Organization ruling in December urged China to let foreign movie studios distribute their movies in the country on their own—but didn't address the annual import quota. Beijing has promised to comply by March 2011.

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Ken Watanabe, Marion Cotillard and Ellen Page, "Inception" follows a team of brain-tapping experts who are hired by a Japanese businessman to influence the thinking of the heir to an energy conglomerate. It has made \$193 million in the U.S. and \$171.5 million overseas as of Sunday, according to the box office tracking website Box Office Mojo.

The film was released in the semiautonomous southern Chinese territory Hong Kong on Thursday, earning \$2 million as of Monday in the former British colony, said Pannie Leung, a Hong Kong-based publicist for Warner Bros.

Warner Bros. decided not to release Nolan's last blockbuster, "The Dark Knight" in China in 2008, citing "cultural sensitivities" to the movie. Studio executives were likely worried that its plot of Batman capturing an ethnic Chinese criminal in Hong Kong would offend Chinese censors.

year. It buys the rights to other lesser-known foreign films at flat rates.

Yuan said he didn't know the release date. China Film Group's distribution department couldn't immediately be reached for comment. Calls to the company went unanswered. Warner Bros. didn't immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

Chinese media reports gave

Will.i.am doesn't support new Jackson album

NEW YORK (AP)—A new Michael Jackson album is expected by the end of the year, culled from unreleased material in his vaults. But Jackson collaborator and Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am is vehemently opposed to the idea.

"I don't think that should ever come out. That's bad," he said. "He was a perfectionist and he wouldn't have wanted it that way. How you gonna release Michael Jackson when Michael Jackson ain't here to bless it?"

Will.i.am collaborated with

Jackson on the rerelease of "Thriller" in 2008 with remixed versions of some of the album's classic songs. He said Jackson was very particular about all aspects of his musical productions, from his vocals to arrangements to instrumentation.

"Now that he is not part of the process, what are they doing? Why would you put a record out like that? Because he was a friend of mine, I just think that's disrespectful," he said. "What's wrong with what he already contributed to the world?"

The Jackson estate did not respond to a request for comment.

When asked about the high demand for any new Jackson music, will.i.am replied: "So what? You don't disrespect someone when they're gone. ... How much can you suck from his energy? ... Freaking parasites!"

Not much is known about what will be on the album, but Michael's brother Jackie has said he and brother Marlon were working on the record with John McClain, Jackson's former manager and executor of his estate.

Ex-deputy: Wyclef Jean to run for Haiti president

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Singer Wyclef Jean is about to announce his candidacy for president of earthquake-ravaged Haiti, the former head of the country's Chamber of Deputies said Tuesday.

Former Deputy Pierre Eric Jean-Jacques told The Associated Press that the hip hop artist will run as part of his coalition in the Nov. 28 election.

Jean spokeswoman Cindy Tanenbaum declined to confirm the report. She said the singer planned to make an announcement Thursday night in Haiti but declined to say what it would be.

Jean-Jacques, who will be seeking to return to the Chamber of Deputies in the election, said he will be a candidate for a new coalition that calls itself Ansanm Nou Fo, which translates as "together we are strong" in Creole.

"Yes, we have an agreement (with Jean). But he's the one who has to announce it first," Jean-Jacques told AP, declining to elaborate on their political plans.

Jean is popular in Haiti for his music and for his work through his charity Yele Haiti, which

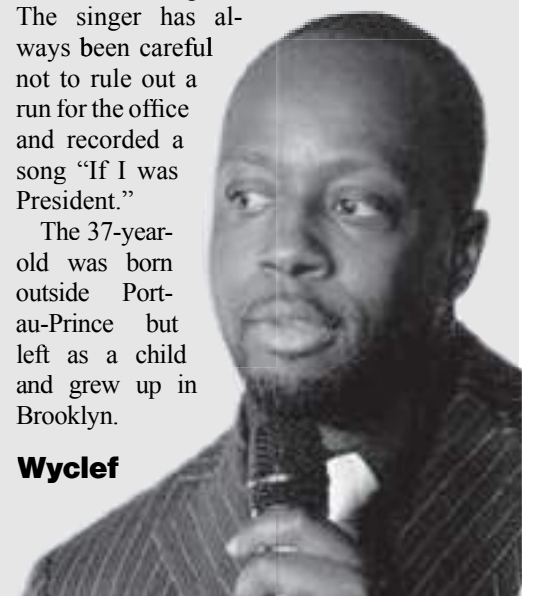
raised millions of dollars after the Jan. 12 earthquake that killed an estimated 300,000 people and knocked down most of the government ministries and many of the homes in the capital.

Rumors have swirled for months that Jean would run for president.

The singer has always been careful not to rule out a run for the office and recorded a song "If I was President."

The 37-year-old was born outside Port-au-Prince but left as a child and grew up in Brooklyn.

Wyclef



HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$5.50 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$5.50 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.

T TIMEWARP TUESDAY \$5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



For Friday, July 30th through Thursday, August 5th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★★★ **NOW SHOWING** ★★★



Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore

Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
 Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15

Alec Baldwin, Chris O'Donnell
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The epic struggle for control of planet Earth continues in this sequel to the 2001 comedy that had pet owners all across the world looking at their house pets in a whole new light. Chris O'Donnell and 30 Rock's Jack McBrayer head up the cast of the production, with scripting duties being handled by Brother Bear's Ron J. Friedman and Steve Bencil.



Charlie St. Cloud

Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
 Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Zac Efron, Kim Basinger
 Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Zac Efron reteams with 7 Again's Burr Steers for this adaptation of Ben Sherwood's novel regarding a caretaker of a cemetery who has daily discussions with his deceased brother. Kim Basinger heads up the supporting cast as the young men's mother.



Dinner For Schmucks

Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
 Sun through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Steve Carell, Paul Rudd
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Steve Carell, Paul Rudd, and Zach Galifianakis star in this remake of director Francis Veber's César award-winning 1998 comedy concerning a renowned publisher who encourages his friends to find the most pathetic guests possible for their weekly dinner party.



Salt

Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
 Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

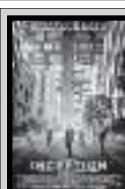
Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber
 Thriller • Rated PG 13



Ramona and Beezus

Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
 Sun through Thurs 1:10 4:20 7:10

Sandra Oh, Bridget Moynahan
 Children's family • Rated G



Inception

Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
 Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard
 Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
 Sun through Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel
 Fantasy, Children's/family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Vanity Fair goes Gaga on best-dressed list

NEW YORK (AP)—First lady Michelle Obama is becoming a fixture on the Vanity Fair International Best-Dressed List—but it's soccer star David Beckham who earned a spot in the hall of fame.

The most eyebrow-raising choices on the magazine's annual list of top tastemakers are in the "originals" category, which includes cover girl Lady Gaga, John Galliano and Helena Bonham Carter.

Gaga channels the "Dada Catholic girl" in the spirit of Gypsy Rose Lee and Rosie, the Jetson's robot maid, the magazine says, while Bonham Carter, who says her favorite items of clothing is her "bloomers," is inspired by Vivienne Westwood and Marie Antoinette.

Galliano's finds his role model in Oliver Twist, and his favorite shoes are his "lucky biker boots."

Vanity Fair sends ballots to thousands of people, in the U.S. and abroad, believed to have the inside track on style, including designers, retailers, editors, socialites, photographers and entertainers. Amy Fine Collins, Aimee Bell and Reinaldo Herrera oversee the 71-year-old list, which the magazine in-



In this Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, singer Lady Gaga performs in concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

herited from the late fashion publicist Eleanor Lambert in 2004.

This year marks Mrs. Obama's fourth consecutive appearance, noting she has practically single-handedly revived arms, belts, cardigans, shifts, high hair and kitten-heel pumps, and it's the third year for France's Dior-wearing Carla Bruni-Sarkozy. British first lady Samantha Cameron is making her debut, with the magazine pointing to her wardrobe full of brooches, bib necklaces and the labels Phillip Lim and Erdem.

Fashion as a category is, of course, well represented with Tory Burch, Elber Albaz of Lanvin, Georgina Chapman of Marchesa, Stacey Bendet Eisner of Alice & Olivia, and Glamour editor in chief Cindi Leive making the cut, as well as Ralph Lauren's three adult children, David, Dylan and Andrew. Royals have their style ambassadors in Princess Mary of Denmark and hall of famer Germany's Princess Mafalda of Hesse.

Diane Kruger, Carey Mulligan, Javier Bardem, Martin Scorsese, Alec Baldwin, Pharrell Williams, siblings Maggie and Jake Gyllenhaal, and couple Ed Burns and Christy Turlington provide the star wattage.

Seacrest: Could be weeks before 'Idol' judges set

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—"American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest said Tuesday that it could be weeks before the show's new judges are announced.

Seacrest said during the New Jersey auditions for the Fox TV singing contest that he didn't know how big the revamped panel will turn out to be. "American Idol" started with three judges and then expanded to four.

Two openings were created by the departures of Simon Cowell and Ellen DeGeneres, with Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez reportedly front-runners for the chairs.

Fox has declined to comment on whether Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi will be returning to the panel for season 10 in January. Seacrest joked he misses Cowell, who was his "roommate" while on the road for auditions.

The panel switcheroo won't be the only overhaul in season 10. Universal Music Group announced Tuesday it was replacing Sony Music Entertainment as the label that develops, distributes and markets "Idol" finalists.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Michaels, Morales set to co-host 'Miss Universe'

NEW YORK (AP)—Rocker Bret Michaels and TV correspondent Natalie Morales are hosting this year's Miss Universe Pageant. The Miss Universe Organization announced Tuesday that Michaels, the musician and reality TV star, and Morales, who reports for NBC's "Today," will be presiding when the pageant airs live from Las Vegas on August 23 on NBC. The two-hour special will gather contestants representing more than 80 countries. They will compete in three categories: swimsuit, evening gown and interview. Michaels was seen this spring as a contestant himself, emerging as the winner of NBC's reality competition "The Celebrity Apprentice."

Aretha Franklin cancels Brooklyn shows after fall

DETROIT (AP)—Aretha Franklin says she's recovering from a fall and will miss two free concerts in New York. Franklin's office says the Queen of Soul broke ribs and has abdominal pain from Sunday's fall.

Justin Bieber set to star in a film about his life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber is adding movie star to his resume.

Paramount Pictures, MTV Films and Bieber's record label, Island Def Jam, say the 16-year-old pop star has signed on to appear in a feature film about his life and career.

The yet-to-be-titled movie is set for release on "Valentine's weekend" of 2011, the companies said Tuesday.

Bieber will also be producing the film,



Bieber

along with mentor Usher, manager Scooter Braun and Island Def Jam Music Group chairman LA Reid.

The movie will offer a "VIP backstage pass" into Bieber's life and will feature 3-D footage from his "My World 2.0" concert tour.

The ubiquitous teen sensation is also bringing his life to readers: HarperCollins announced Monday that it will publish his memoir in October.

Part two of 'Breaking Dawn' coming out Nov. 2012

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Twilight" fans will get their final taste of the vampire series when the second half of the finale hits theaters at the end of 2012.

"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2," is scheduled for release Nov. 16, 2012, Summit Entertainment announced Tuesday. The first half is coming out Nov. 18, 2011.

Bill Condon is set to direct both mov-

ies, based on the fourth and final book in Stephanie Meyer's series about vampires, werewolves and the teenage girl caught in between them. Stars Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner are all set to return. Production is scheduled to begin this fall.

Part three, "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," has made over \$288 million in its five weeks in theaters.

where in the ratings, Nickelodeon's "iCarly" reached 7.7 million viewers for a special episode Friday night. There was no telling how many were watching in their pajamas.

Muti, Te Kanawa to receive Opera News Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Conductor Riccardo Muti, sopranos Kiri Te Kanawa and Patricia Racette, bass-baritone Bryn Terfel and tenor Jonas Kaufmann have won this year's Opera News Awards. The five will be honored at a dinner on April 17 in New York, with proceeds going to the Metropolitan Opera Guild's education programs. Muti, former music director of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Milan's Teatro alla Scala, made his Metropolitan debut this year conducting Verdi's "Attila" and becomes music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra this season. Terfel and Kaufmann are to star in a new production of Wagner's Ring Cycle that starts with the first two installments at the Met this season. Te Kanawa made her Met debut in 1974, and Racette has sung at the Met since 1995.

President garners big viewing on daytime TV

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama's visit has set a standard for "The View." The Nielsen Co. says the president's appearance on the show last week drew 6.6 million viewers. That was the biggest audience ever for a show that's been on the air since 1997. It was believed to be the first time a sitting president had appeared on a daytime TV talk show. Even "The View's" Barbara Walters came in for the show. She's been recovering from heart surgery and wasn't expected back until the fall. Else-

Mom's kitchen floor remedy is embarrassing to daughter

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When I went to visit my mother, I found her lying on the kitchen floor. I asked her what she was doing there, and she said the floor feels cold and hard and soothes her back.

Abby, my mother has two very expensive beds in her home, and there is no reason for her to lie on the floor. It could be embarrassing if a friend or neighbor should pop in and find her there. How do I get her off the floor?



Dear Abby

NOT BEDRIDDEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR NOT BEDRIDDEN: You should be more concerned with how things are than how they "might" be perceived by others. If your mother is having back trouble, encourage her to discuss it with her doctor or a chiropractor so she can be examined to make sure nothing is wrong. But if nothing is, then leave your poor mother alone. She's in the privacy of her own home, and she is hurting no one.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have an ongoing discussion in our office. What color ink is proper for signing birthday cards, sympathy cards, farewell cards, etc?

One co-worker continues to use colors other than blue or black. An older co-worker says it's inappropriate to use any other colors. I have searched for an answer to this question with no luck. Can you help?

SEEING RED IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR SEEING RED: You seem to have a lot of time on your hands in that office. What is being conveyed is more important than how it looks. To sign a sympathy card in bright red might be inappropriate because it is jarring. For cards celebrating happy occasions, colored ink is acceptable—the exception being fluorescent ink because it is hard to read.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My aunt and uncle are "large" people. In the past we have had to be extremely cautious about where they sit when they come visit. Our furniture is mostly hand-me-downs and not overly sturdy.

They have, on occasion, broken the furniture because of their weight. We have had to have our kitchen chairs reglued, and once a chair was destroyed beyond repair. They have never offered to make amends for the furniture they have damaged.

We are about to order a new dining room set and living room furniture. Naturally, we don't want these broken. My husband has suggested giving them only sturdy folding chairs to sit on, but I don't want to embarrass them or make them feel uncomfortable.

Is there a way to protect our furniture without hurting or offending my aunt and uncle? We don't have the money to constantly replace broken items.

STRICTLY ANONYMOUS IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR STRICTLY ANONYMOUS: To drag out folding chairs for your aunt and uncle to use would be glaringly obvious. Consider buying a couple of sturdy chairs (and possibly have them reinforced with metal bracing) for them. When you know they're coming, "guide" them toward the chairs you want them to use. If you are questioned about it, explain (kindly) that in the past your chairs have been broken or needed repair—so these were bought with them in mind because they are sturdier and you want them to be comfortable.

If they take offense, then please realize that the problem is theirs. To prepare for guests with "special needs" is an example of good hospitality, not rudeness.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



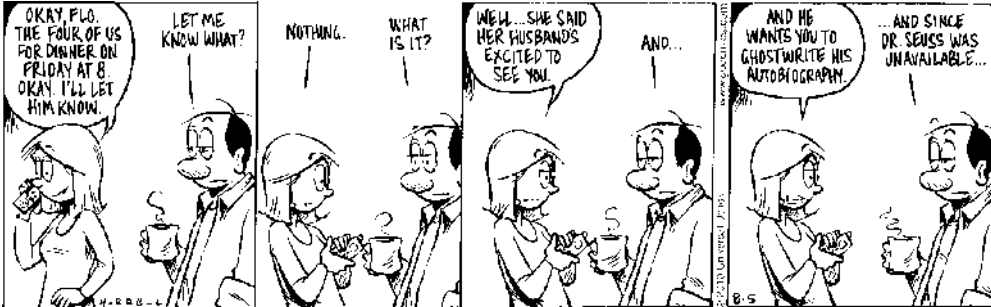
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Space pressed

4 Enthusiasm

8 "Take — Train"

12 Ms. Thurman

13 Approximately

14 Sauce

15 Element in laughing gas

17 Storybook villain

18 Run smoothly

19 Spray can

21 Invest-gated

24 Tear

25 Trail the pack

26 Accomplished

28 Transfer

32 Finished

34 Conger, e.g.

36 Portrayal

37 Doctrine

39 "Hum-bug!"

DOWN

1 Pistol

2 Parisian

3 Disease

4 Raced

5 Work unit

6 Away from

7 Unsocial type

8 State cop

9 Swine

10 Contentional

11 Ice skater's leap

16 Abrade

20 Disen-cumber

21 Scenario

22 Carry on

23 Conk out

27 Society newbie

29 Cause of a fat lip?

30 Lotion additive

31 Lascivious

33 Edit in the

35 Fond du —, WI

38 — chi

40 Mingle

43 Disrobe

45 Leftover scrap

46 Luminary

47 Game played on horses

48 Eye part

49 Take to the skies

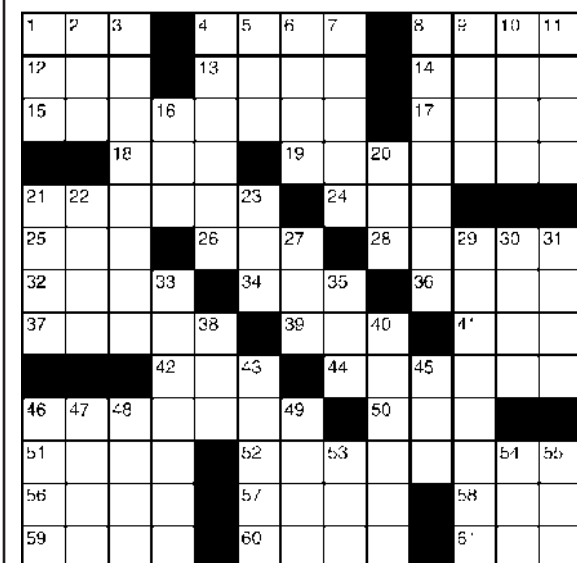
53 Id counterpart

54 Historic period

55 Kan. neighbor

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer: A-5



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$99 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Silverman, 44; Patrick Ewing, 48; Maureen McCormick, 54; Neil Armstrong, 80

Happy Birthday: Set your goals, use your imagination and don't look back. You can conquer anything and anyone with your knowledge and preparation. It's been a long time coming but now you can prosper. Your ability to walk away from any situation you don't like is your safety net. Your numbers are 3, 10, 12, 21, 28, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put what you know and the skills you have to work for you. Take advantage of any opportunity to network or socialize with people who share your interests. Opportunities that arise suddenly must be recognized and taken advantage of. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Love is on the rise and, whether you are in a relationship or single, you should be making an effort to enhance your personal life. Strive for perfection professionally and you will be given an opportunity to advance. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you allow anything to interfere with the results you need to acquire, you will be short-changed. Play hard and play fair at whatever game or challenge you face. Your morals, ethics, imagination and strong sense of justice will enable you to outdo the competition. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be prepared to deal with the unexpected. Avoid arguments and taking on burdens that don't belong to you. Not everyone will be easy to

get along with and emotional manipulation may be used to try to get you to do things you don't care to do. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Now is not the time to dawdle or dwell on the past when you should be moving at lightning speed to reach your goals. You will have choices to make that may not please everyone but you must follow your own set of rules. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Letting your emotions lead the way will cause stress. Put your practical cap on and stick to your game plan. A sudden loss will occur if you aren't precise in what you say and do. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can come up with some great ideas that will keep you out of trouble, help you find ways to spend your time and lead you to people who feed your imagination and support you. Travel, get together with friends, attend a reunion or invest time in a partnership. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A money deal will be presented. Don't scoff at what's being offered when a little negotiating on your part will allow you to get what you want. Join forces with people willing to take a chance and try something new. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have plenty of chances to make changes both at work and at home. Your desire to get things done will show everyone you mean business and that you will reach your goals. Don't let criticism or negativity stop you. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on love, money and long-term commitments. Anything superficial should be left alone. You want to go with no-risk ventures and stick to people you can count on. Anything less will lead to regret. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have a commitment to fulfill, a chance to improve what you are and what you are capable of doing. Learn from past mistakes and don't fall into the same traps you have worked so hard to put behind you. Good fortune is ahead. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your emotions out of any negotiations you are involved in. Don't let someone's uncertainty discourage you. You may not feel that you can move forward alone but, in time, you will be glad you did. **

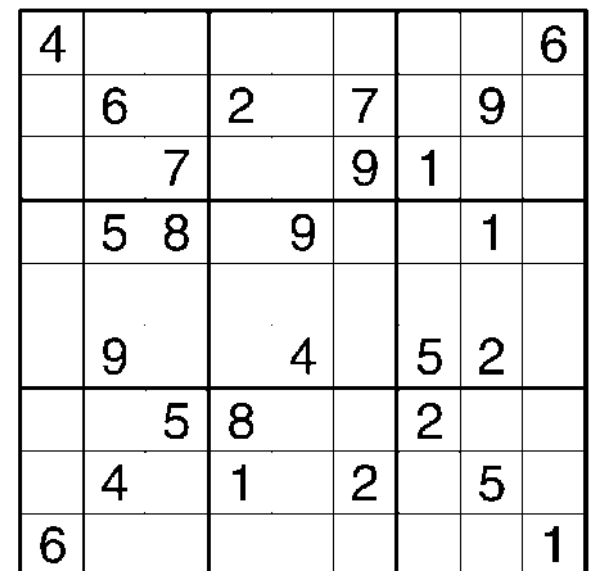
Birthday Baby: You are passionate about everything you do. You are outspoken and a competitive player whenever faced with challenges.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

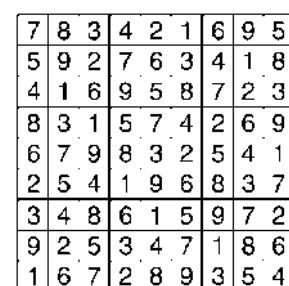


Difficulty Level ★★★

8/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

PAVEMENT

Solution: 8 letters



©2010 Universal Press. www.conceptis.com. All rights reserved. 8/5

Area, Asphalt, Bitumen, Black, Bumpy, Cement, Coat, Construction, Cover, Crack, Digging, Driveway, Ever, Firm, Flatter, Floor, Gravel, Ground, Harden, Highway, Hold, Hole, Lad, Level, Lma, Melt, Overlay, Peck, Passage, Path, Road, Rock, Roll, Rough, Sand, Seal, Shell, Sdewa, Smooth, So, d, Spread, Stone, Street, Strong, Surface, Tars, T e, Traffic, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Shoulders

For more puzzles, visit www.conceptis.com. Puzzles are available in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Swedish. Puzzles are available in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Swedish. Puzzles are available in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Swedish.

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Flower power

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

DanDan – American style home
2 storey concrete house-walled/gated,
5bedrooms, 3baths, unfurnished, Roof-
top patio and BBQ, beautiful Mountain/
Ocean view, 24 hr. water, 322-0268

Fina Sisu Apt. 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

EMPLOYMENT

For Immediate Hire:
Commercial Farmer
287-1577. English speaking.

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... **\$25.00**
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)
Some conditions may apply

Crispin M. Ogo and
Linda Ann Teteo Koshiro
P.O. Box 503413
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 233-5889

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter of the] FCD GU
Petition To Appoint] CIVIL ACTION
General Guardianship] NO. 10-0406
For:]

S.M.V.]
Minor Child] NOTICE
By:] OF
HEARING

CRISPIN M. OGO AND
LINDA ANN TETEO
KOSHIRO
Petitioners.]

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for
a hearing on August 20, 2010,
at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205A,
before Associate Judge Kenneth
L. Govendo.

Dated this 3rd day of August,
2010.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

By: /s/Deputy Clerk of Court

MISSING-HEIDI



CALL 238-0554 or 235-4529

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

campanula

Find today's solution in this section

Teammates say Favre texted them of plans to retire



Minnesota Vikings Brett Favre fans visit with other Vikings fans outside the team's practice facility at the NFL team's football training camp Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010 in Mankato, Minn., amidst a day of reports that Favre was retiring. AP

MANKATO, Minn. (AP)—With everyone assuming Brett Favre was returning for a 20th NFL season, the Minnesota Vikings were enjoying a relatively calm and quiet training camp as they started preparations for another run at the Super Bowl.

All that tranquillity, and certainty, is out the window now.

Favre has told some teammates and Vikings officials that his surgically repaired left ankle is not healing the way he would like it to and that he will not return to Minnesota this season.

"He told a couple guys on our team he's going to retire," tight end Visanthe Shiancoe said after practice on Tuesday. "He hasn't told me yet. I'm going to check my phone right now, but it hasn't been said publicly yet so I don't know what to believe."

Even with Favre's history of flip-flopping, the revelations came as a surprise to most surrounding the Vikings. They reported to training camp last week confident that after they wrapped things up in Mankato on Aug. 12, Favre would join them in the Twin Cities—just as he did last season.

But Favre's messages to teammates turned things upside down on a sweltering day. Own-

er Zygi Wilf, vice president of player personnel Rick Spielman and vice president of football operations Rob Brzezinski were seen huddling during practice in long discussions.

Head coach Brad Childress said after the morning practice that he had not been directly contacted by Favre and called the 40-year-old quarterback's status with the team "fluid." Childress has shown a great deal of patience with Favre, saying he would not set a deadline for a decision and allowing him to skip training camp for a second straight year.

"It wouldn't surprise me one way or the other, whether he elects to play or whether he elects to retire," Childress said. "I think all of us can live with it either way. The big thing is that he is at peace with it."

With Favre, of course, there is always the chance that he changes his mind, and that's what the Vikings are hoping for yet again. He told the Vikings last year he wouldn't play, but ultimately ended up joining them after they broke training camp. Childress even drove to the airport to pick him up for his 19th NFL season.

Favre and his agent, Bus Cook, did not return messages from The Associated Press, and most players aren't taking Favre's messages

as definitive just yet.

"I love Brett and he reserves the right to do what he wants to do," defensive end Jared Allen said. "We obviously love him as a teammate. We'd like to have him back. But until it's official, I'll believe it when I see it."

Star running back Adrian Peterson said his gut feeling was that Favre would be handing him the ball in the Sept. 9 opener against New Orleans, and that is what Saints receiver Lance Moore expects to see as well.

"I don't believe it," Moore said at Saints camp in Metairie, La. "As competitive as he is, I would be shocked if he wasn't here for opening night."

Favre has considered retiring every summer since 2002. It led to an ugly parting with the Packers that got him traded from Green Bay to the Jets in 2008. After a so-so season in New York, he announced his retirement in early 2009 for the second time, then reconsidered and signed with the Vikings.

He had one of his best seasons last year, with career bests in completion percentage (68.4), quarterback rating (107.2) and fewest interceptions (7), while throwing for 33 TDs and 4,202 yards to lead the Vikings to an NFC North title. He hurt his left ankle in the NFC championship loss to the New Or-

leans Saints and had arthroscopic surgery in May.

Favre was under contract for \$13 million this season, but only if he plays.

With unproven Tarvaris Jackson in line to start at quarterback if Favre does retire, the Vikings know they need him back.

"It definitely will be a blow to the team (if he retires)," Shiancoe said. "Be real. It will be a setback to the team. It's just something that I'm pretty sure the reason has to be a strong reason."

Favre has been working out at Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, Miss., to see if the ankle can handle another year in the NFL. He will turn 41 in October.

There are plenty of guys in purple who think the NFL's iron man has one more season left in him.

"I'm going to try to get him here every chance I get," Shiancoe said. "I'm going to try to send him texts or something. But at the same time, I know he made a decision for a reason and hopefully that reason transforms or gets better."

If this is indeed the end for Favre, what a career.

A three-time league MVP (1995-97), Favre won the Super Bowl in 1997 with the Packers. His 11 Pro Bowl appearances are the most ever by a quar-

NFL: No discipline on Vick

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP)—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell told Michael Vick he will not face disciplinary action following a shooting at the quarterback's birthday party six weeks ago.

Goodell spoke with Vick on Tuesday while visiting the Eagles during his training camp tour. Shortly after, the NFL released a statement.

"Commissioner Goodell informed Michael Vick there will be no disciplinary action as a result of the incident in Virginia, based on his current understanding of the facts. Commissioner Goodell spoke several weeks ago by phone with Michael, Tony Dungy, and Eagles coach Andy Reid.

"All were in agreement on the need for additional support measures to be added to Michael's plan to enhance his opportunity to succeed in life and football. These additional steps will remain confidential, but they will require Michael to meet even higher standards."

Vick was scheduled to speak to reporters after practice on Wednesday.

The NFL and the Eagles had been looking into a shooting at a nightclub in Virginia Beach, Va., where Vick held his 30th birthday party on June 25. Police said no charges would be filed because of a lack of cooperation by witnesses and the victim, who Vick's attorney Larry Woodward identified as Quanis Phillips—a co-defendant in Vick's federal dogfighting case.

Vick and Goodell spoke on the phone after the shooting, but this was their first face-to-face meeting.

"He understands the responsibility he has and the position he's in, and he has to make good decisions," Goodell said. "I want him to understand that he's in a different position than others and because of that he

has to protect himself differently, and he recognizes that, I think, and hopefully he's going to make good decisions moving forward."

When the Eagles signed Vick to a two-year contract last August after he finished an 18-month sentence in federal prison, he was told he has no margin for error.

Vick was a model citizen off the field and in the locker room during his first season with the Eagles. He was popular among his teammates, who voted him winner of the Ed Block Courage Award.

"A large part of our message is going to be the additional support we want to provide, helping him make better decisions, including mentoring, guidance and support we think we can provide him both at the league level and at the club level," Goodell said.

A three-time Pro Bowl pick during six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons, Vick is Philadelphia's No. 2 quarterback behind Kevin Kolb. He wasn't much of a factor last year, despite taking snaps away from Donovan McNabb when the Eagles ran a variation of the wildcat formation. Vick completed 6 of 13 passes for 86 yards and one touchdown and ran for 95 yards and two scores. He tossed a 76-yard TD pass in a 34-14 loss to Dallas in the playoffs.

Goodell is more concerned with Vick's performance off the field.

"I think he's made significant progress. I think he understands his responsibility, he's been focused on it, but as I've said to him a year ago, he can't afford lapses in judgment," Goodell said. "He just can't afford that. He understands that position he's in, and he needs to make sure that he's held to that high standard."

terback. He holds most major NFL records for a quarterback, including career touchdowns (497), yards passing (69,329); wins (181); and seasons with at least 3,000 yards passing (18).

Of course, he also has thrown the most interceptions (317) and been sacked 503 times - a long, long history of wear and tear.

"It's like believing in Santa

Claus. You get gifts, but you ain't seen Santa Claus," said linebacker Nick Barnett, whose Packers will be challenging the Vikings for the NFC North title this year. "We'll see what happens ... If he does retire, congratulations. It's a well-deserved retirement. But if he does come back, we'll be gunning for him the same way."

Heat visit Celtics in NBA opener, LA on Christmas



NEWYORK (AP)—The NBA will open its season with a battle of Big Threes, then offer up the new-look Miami Heat against Kobe Bryant and the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers on Christmas Day.

The Heat will debut their All-Star trio of Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh at

Boston on Oct. 26 against the defending Eastern Conference champion Celtics, who are led by their veteran group of Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen.

The Lakers will host Houston in the other opening-night game on TNT, the NBA announced Tuesday. The Rockets hope to have Yao Ming back in the lineup after he missed last season

with a foot injury.

The Christmas schedule will again feature five games, highlighted by the return of the Heat-Lakers matchup that was regularly played Dec. 25 after Los Angeles traded Shaquille O'Neal to Miami in 2004.

Boston will visit Orlando on Christmas for a rematch of the East finals. The remainder of that day's schedule includes

Chicago at New York, Denver at Oklahoma City, and Portland at Golden State.

The full NBA schedule will be released Aug. 10, but the league unveiled its nationally televised games for the opening week of the season, Christmas and Martin Luther King Jr. Days during an NBA TV special on Tuesday.

There was more heightened

interest in the schedule this season because of the attention on the Heat, who got James and Bosh to join Wade last month. James' return to Cleveland, surely to be a spectacle because of Cavaliers fans' anger over the Ohio native's departure, did not land on one of the marquee dates.

Orlando gets two high-profile games in the first four days of

the season. The Magic host No. 1 overall pick John Wall and Washington on Oct. 28 to open their new Amway Center, then travel to Miami the next night for the first of four meetings with their state and Southeast Division rival Heat.

The Magic and Celtics will meet again on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Lakers will host the rising Thunder, who took them to six tough games last season in the first round, later that night.

Halladay pitches Philadelphia past Florida



MIAMI
(A P) — Roy Halladay

made a triumphant return to the scene of his perfect game, allowing one run in seven innings as Philadelphia beat Florida 6-1 on Tuesday.

Halladay (13-8) threw the second perfect game in Phillies history on his last visit to Miami on May 29. This time the Marlins managed five hits against the right-hander, who struck out nine and lowered his ERA to 2.17.

Halladay hit a two-run single in the fourth. He improved to 3-1 in four starts against Florida this year with an ERA of 1.13.

Ben Francisco and Carlos Ruiz homered on consecutive pitches in the second inning. Francisco finished with three of the Phils' 13 hits, and Ruiz had four.

Mets 3, Braves 2

At Atlanta, Jeff Francoeur hit a go-ahead solo home run in the ninth inning off Atlanta closer Billy Wagner as New York snapped a two-game losing streak.

The Braves have lost three of four and now lead second-place Philadelphia by two games in the National League East. Atlanta's 35-14 record at home, where they had won 25 of 32, leads the majors.

Reliever Manny Acosta (2-1) earned the win for New York after allowing one hit and three walks in 1 2-3 innings.

Giants 10, Rockies 0

At Denver, Jonathan Sanchez limited Colorado to three hits over six innings as surging San Francisco won its fourth straight game in a blowout.

After five straight no-decisions, Sanchez (8-6) won for the first time since July 5 and equaled his 2009 victory total. Sanchez struck out seven straight batters at one point and finished with nine strikeouts before leaving after a leadoff walk in the seventh.

The Giants, who have won 21 of their past 26, had a four-run first inning against Aaron Cook (4-8), who lasted three innings and allowed eight hits and five runs. In his past three starts, Cook is 0-3 with a 13.97 ERA.

The Giants matched their season-high with 19 hits, the most allowed by the Rockies this season.

Astros 18, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Houston's Bud Norris won his fourth game this season in a route over St. Louis.

Houston had a five-run second against rookie Jaime Garcia (9-5) and scored four in the sixth, seventh and eighth against the St. Louis bullpen. The Astros were 13 for 19 with runners in scoring position. They missed the franchise record for runs by one and had a season-best 22 hits.

Norris (4-7) is 5-1 with a 2.27 ERA in six career starts against



Philadelphia Phillies' Roy Halladay pitches against the Florida Marlins in the fourth inning of a baseball game in Miami, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010. The Phillies won 6-1.

the Cardinals and had allowed only one run in 20 innings his first three career appearances in St. Louis, all victories.

Diamondbacks 6, Nationals 1

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning in a victory over Washington before being forced to leave the game after he was hit in the head by a pitch.

Reynolds was hit near the front of the helmet by a pitch from reliever Collin Balester and had to leave the game. Reynolds remained on the dirt near home plate momentarily after manager Kirk Gibson and training staff rushed out to aid him. He popped back up on his feet, but was removed for a pinch-runner.

Reynolds, who turned 27 on Tuesday, hit a towering drive over the right-center field wall in one of the deepest parts of Chase Field to give Arizona a 4-1 lead against Scott Olsen (3-3).

Pirates 7, Reds 6

At Pittsburgh, rookie Neil Walker had three hits and drove in a career-high four runs as last-place Pittsburgh held off first-place Cincinnati to snap a five-game losing streak.

Walker had a three-run double as part of a six-run second inning for Pittsburgh, which also got two hits and two runs from Jose Tabata. The Pirates had a scare when outfielder Andrew McCutchen left the game after he was hit by a pitch in the back of the neck.

Brandon Phillips went 3 for 5 with two RBIs and Chris Heisey had two RBI singles for the Reds, who came in having won three straight and five of

six. Cincinnati remained in first place in the NL Central because St. Louis lost to Houston.

Mike Leake (7-3) was charged with seven runs and seven hits with a walk and two strikeouts in five innings for his second consecutive defeat.

Brewers 4, Cubs 3

At Chicago, Chris Narveson pitched 5 2-3 effective innings and also singled in a run as Milwaukee extended Chicago's losing streak to seven games.

Ryan Braun, who had five hits in Milwaukee's 18-1 victory the previous night, added three more singles. Prince Fielder followed his five-hit, five-RBI game with two singles and an RBI. And Casey McGehee, who drove in four runs Monday, had two more RBIs.

Thomas Diamond (0-1) struck out 10 over six innings in his major league debut but couldn't prevent the Cubs (46-61) from falling 15 games under .500 for the first time since they ended 2006 at 66-96.

Narveson (9-7) allowed one run and six hits. The left-hander walked one and struck out six, looking nothing like the battered hurler who had an 8.17 ERA in July.

Dodgers 2, Padres 1

At Los Angeles, Ted Lilly out-pitched Mat Latos with seven superb innings in his first start for the team that drafted him 14 years ago as Los Angeles snapped a six-game losing streak with a victory over San Diego.

Lilly (3-9) allowed two hits, struck out five, walked none and retired his final 20 batters before he was lifted for a pinch-hitter after 87 pitches. The 34-year-

old left-hander was obtained on Saturday from the Cubs with infielder Ryan Theriot in a deal that sent second baseman Blake DeWitt and two minor leaguers to Chicago.

The only run off Lilly came with one out in the first when Miguel Tejada hit his eighth homer of the season and first since joining the Padres last Thursday in a trade with Baltimore.

Rays 6, Twins 4

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Sean Rodriguez and B.J. Upton hit three-run homers as the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Minnesota Twins.

The Rays won for the 10th time in 11 games and victory allowed them to move into first place in the American League East.

Rodriguez homered in the first inning. Upton put the Rays ahead 6-3 with his tiebreaking drive in the seventh.

Jeff Niemann (10-3) allowed three runs and eight hits over seven innings. Tampa Bay moved one game ahead of the New York Yankees, who lost to Toronto 8-2.

Rafael Soriano allowed an RBI single to Joe Mauer in the ninth before recording his 31st save.

Orioles 6, Angels 3

At Baltimore, Buck Showalter's difficult task of turning around the last-place Baltimore Orioles began with a victory over Los Angeles.

Luke Scott hit a two-run homer and Josh Bell added a two-run double for his first major league RBIs in a big sixth inning.

It was Showalter's first game as a skipper since the end of the 2006 season, when he was with the Texas Rangers. He's the

third manager of 2010 for Baltimore, which is a majors-worst 33-73, and drew a roar from the Camden Yards crowd of 16,723 simply by jogging out of the dugout to clarify a call with the plate umpire.

Jeremy Guthrie (5-11) went seven innings, allowing three runs and five hits. The right-hander has now won two of his past three starts after going 0-6 in his previous nine.

Red Sox 3, Indians 1

At Boston, Mike Lowell hit a two-run homer on the first pitch he saw after coming off the disabled list and Josh Beckett dominated for eight innings as the Boston Red Sox beat Cleveland after a bench-clearing fracas.

The Red Sox won on the day they lost first baseman Kevin Youkilis. He went on the 15-day disabled list with a torn muscle in his right thumb and was going to see a hand specialist, unsure whether he would need season-ending surgery.

Youkilis was on the field in the eighth inning when the benches emptied. A pitch by Indians reliever Jensen Lewis that sailed behind Adrian Beltre started things. Lewis, Indians third-base coach Steve Smith and Beckett were ejected.

No punches were thrown, though Smith and Red Sox manager Terry Francona got into a heated exchange.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 2

At New York, Ricky Romero baffled the suddenly slumping New York Yankees for the second time this season as the free-swinging Toronto Blue Jays belted four more home runs for the victory.

Alex Rodriguez failed to hit homer No. 600 for the 12th consecutive game, extending the longest stretch before reaching the milestone of the six players to have done it. New York's third baseman went 0 for 3 with a strikeout.

The Yankees have lost three straight for the first time since June 16-19.

Romero (9-7) allowed just two hits — a two-run homer by Mark Teixeira in the first and an infield single by Marcus Thames in the fifth. He retired the final 15 batters.

White Sox 12, Tigers 2, 1st game Tigers 7, White Sox 1, 2nd game

At Detroit, Jeremy Bonderman allowed one run in 6 2-3 innings for his first win in two months and Johnny Damon drove in two runs as the Detroit Tigers earned a split of a day-night doubleheader with Chicago.

Chicago won the first game as Juan Pierre homered for the first time in almost two years. Alex Rios and Dayan Viciedo also connected for the White Sox in the opener.

Mark Buehrle (10-8) pitched into the eighth inning, allowing two runs and seven hits. It's the 10th straight season he has won at least 10 games.

Pierre also doubled, drove in two runs and stole his league-leading 40th base, the 499th of his career. Pierre's previous home run has was Sept. 15, 2008. He lined a shot from Rick Porcello over the right-field fence to lead off the fifth.

Porcello (4-10) was tagged for seven runs and eight hits in 4 1-3 innings and was chased as the White Sox took a 7-1 lead in the fifth.

In the second game, Bonderman (6-6) allowed five hits, walking one and striking out five. His last win came on June 3. Robbie Weinhardt and Ryan Perry finished the game.

Carlos Torres (0-1), recalled from Triple-A Charlotte before the first game, was the loser for Chicago, giving up five runs and nine hits in six innings with five walks and four strikeouts.

Royals 3, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, Alex Gordon hit a leadoff double and scored on Greg Blanco's groundout in the ninth inning to give Kansas City the win over Oakland.

Gordon also homered, while Mitch Maier and Yuniesky Betancourt added two hits apiece for the Royals, who snapped a four-game losing streak to the A's.

Newly acquired reliever Jesse Chavez (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win before Joakim Soria worked the ninth for his 30th save.

Gordon's homer in the second, a solo shot with one out, was his fourth overall and third in five games after being recalled from the minors on July 23.

Gordon doubled leading off the ninth against Craig Breslow (4-3).

Kyle Davies allowed two runs with six strikeouts and five walks in five innings but left with a no-decision for the seventh time in his last 11 starts.

Mariners 3, Rangers 2

At Seattle, Franklin Gutierrez hit a go-ahead solo homer in the fifth, as Seattle snapped its seven-game losing streak with a victory over Texas.

After a winless road trip to Chicago and Minnesota, the Mariners returned home and rediscovered a little offense to go along with the pitching of starter Jason Vargas.

Gutierrez was responsible for Seattle's first run in the third with a bases-loaded squeeze bunt. His homer was the 10th of the season.

Vargas (7-5) allowed three hits and two runs in six innings, picking up his first victory in more than a month. Vargas, who last won June 22 against Chicago, had lost his previous three decisions.

David Aardsma finished off Seattle's first win since July 25 with a perfect ninth for his 19th save.

Chow Queen gobbles up Island Apparel; Wings Travel wins



Led by high-scoring swingman Dave Sablan, MDX-Chow Queen made mincemeat of Bartender Association-Island Apparel, 103-81, as the United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League resumed Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

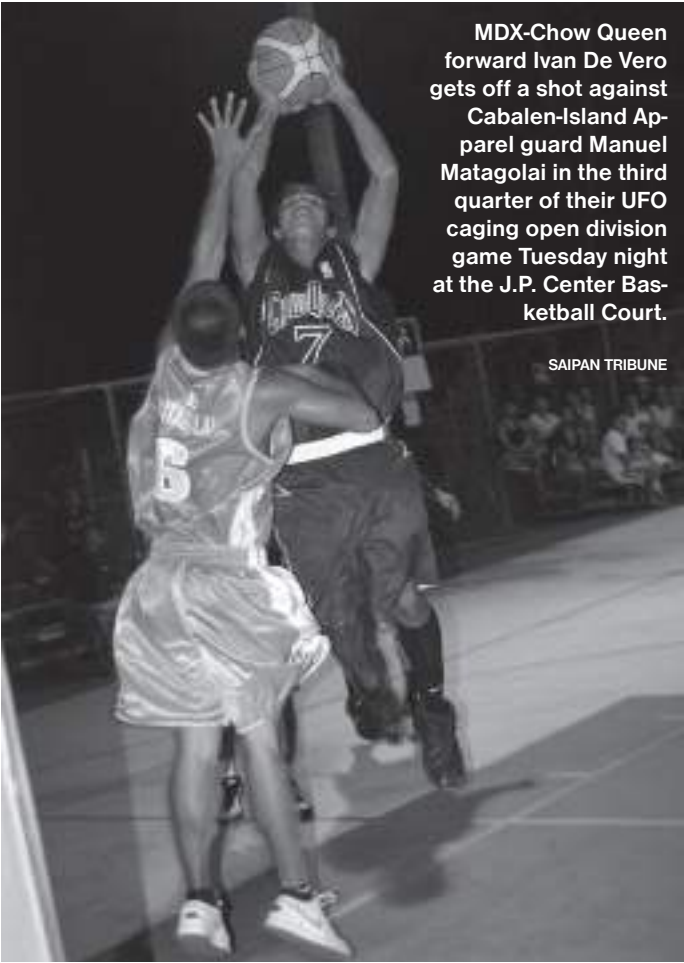
Chow Queen actually got off to a slow start in the open division match, as Island Apparel managed to take a two-point lead, 24-22, after the first quarter thanks to the 10 markers of Manuel Matagolai.

But Sablan and company got going in the second quarter, as the former CNMI national cager showed he probably should've been allowed to strut his stuff in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau.

Sablan mocked Island Apparel's defense en route to a 13-point performance in the second quarter that shoved Chow Queen to a 51-37 lead at the break.

Wowie Abuel then picked up where Sablan left off in the third quarter, as the sweet-shooting guard exploded for 10 points to help increase Chow Queen's lead to 30 points, 86-56, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

It was another all-Sablan show in the playoff quarter, as



MDX-Chow Queen forward Ivan De Vero gets off a shot against Cabalen-Island Apparel guard Manuel Matagolai in the third quarter of their UFO caging open division game Tuesday night at the J.P. Center Basketball Court.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

the ex-San Antonio Sixer scored another baker's dozen to lead his team to the 22-point rout.

Sablan went on to score 29 points for Chow Queen, while Abuel and power forward Kae Bernado added 20 and 15 in support.

Matagolai matched Sablan with his own 29 points, but failed to get more production from his teammates as Rolly Paraiso was Island Apparel's second leading scorer with 12 markers.

Earlier in the masters division, Cabalen-Wings Travel held off

MAFEA's repeated rally attempts to hack out a 79-73 victory.

Sam Fernandez paced Wings Travel with 21 points, while masters rookie Junar Guiab and 6'4" center Bruce Berline knocked in 13 and 11 points, respectively, for good measure.

Rolling dervish Francis Rebuyon shone in the loss for MAFEA, totaling 17 points, the same output registered by Bacolod gunner Ernie Moses.

First Game

Cabalen-Wings Travel 79 – Fernandez 21, Guiab 13, Berline 11, Yalung 8, Valencia 7, Aguilar 6, Santos 4.

MAFEA 73 – Rebuyon 17, Moises 17, Vargas 10, Opono 10, Abuan 6, Cultura 5, Pascual 4, Tengco 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 38-39, 60-52, 79-73.

Second Game

MDX-Chow Queen 103 – Sablan 29, Abuel 20, Bernardo 15, Fitial 8, Aquino 7, Mortos 7, C. De Vero 4, I. De Vero 4, Tamayo 4, Lerio 3, Pantaleon 2.

Bartender Assoc.-Island Apparel 81 – Matagolai 29, Paraiso 12, Sison 10, Tengco 7, Cabrera 6, Guiang 6, Abuy 6, Mina 3, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-24, 51-37, 86-56, 103-81. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Two teams extend unbeaten streak

The duos of Victor Regis and Mario Diola in the men's doubles B and Gigi Zapanta and Hannah Choi in the women's doubles B notched their fifth wins last Saturday in the Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition 2010 at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Regis and Diola remained undefeated in five games following their 21-18, 21-16 victory against Roger Vales and Jojo Savellano. The latter dropped to a 3-2 win-loss record.

The only other men's doubles B match Saturday saw Noli Santos and Aries Cordero improve to 4-1 following their 21-14, 15-21, 21-18 win over Edwin Maratas and Jorge Olanda (2-3).

In the men's doubles A, Ferdie Arago and Edwin Montoya (2-3) kept Jerry Hibi and Robert Reyes (0-4) winless after a narrow 17-21, 21-17, 21-15 victory.

Reyes had more success in his partnership with Regis in the men's doubles AB, as the pair edged Macoi Aguda and Ezekiel Macario (0-5), 21-13, 15-21, 21-14, to register their first win in five games.

Hapi Gabriel and Manatsu Omori (3-2) got the better of Hibi and Cordero (2-3), 21-14, 21-18, but fell to Arago and Savellano (3-2), 21-16, 21-19 a few hours later.

For their part, Zapanta and Choi (5-0) kept their sparkling clean record following a 21-15, 21-9 demolition of Cheng Saturno and Lucelle Lampera (3-2) in the aforementioned women's doubles B division.

In other women's doubles B games, Malou Malasarte and Ana Alvarez (3-2) fought off a tough challenge from Marlene Peraja and Lani Bartolome (2-2), 18-21, 21-16, 21-15; while Marilyn Montano and Jaja Samonte (1-5) broke into the win column after a 23-21, 21-18 grind-out victory against Cristy Villaflo and Emily Vargas (1-4).

Earlier Peraja and Bartolome squeezed out a 15-21, 21-11, 21-9 triumph against Angie Ito and Shirley Kim (2-3).

In the women's doubles BC, Loida Ito and Kim Boh Ranah (2-4) beat Shirley Kim and Heo In Sook (2-3), 21-13, 15-21, 21-10; while Peraja and Annette Quiambao (4-1) got past Villaflo and Malou Mendoza (1-4), 21-18, 21-12. (*Saipan Tribune*)



GOLD

From Page 28

National Swimming Pool.

Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, and Grace Kimball earned two gold medals each, while Shin Kimura had one.

Wong won the 100m freestyle and 200m butterfly swims; Staal prevailed in the 50m breaststroke and 50m backstrokes

Kimball topped 100m and 400m freestyle events; and Kimura ruled the 400m freestyle swim.

The CNMI's eighth gold medal of the day in the swimming competition came from the 400m freestyle relay with Wong teaming up with Shin and Kensuke Kimura, and Staal.

Michael Moran gave the CNMI swimming team its lone bronze medal of the day when

he finished third in the 100m freestyle.

The CNMI, counting Benavente's gold in discus throw Tuesday night and the table tennis squad's gold medal in the team event yesterday, now has a 20-7-4 gold-silver-bronze tally to remain on top of medal standings.

Palau moved up from fourth to second after notching a couple of medals in the athletics

competition.

The afternoon competition in athletics on Day 1 was supposed to start at 5pm, but was delayed for more than 30 minutes due to rain. After a few events organizers needed to stop the competition again because of the heavy showers and Day 1 of the athletics competition finished around 10pm Tuesday.

The CNMI's baseball game

against Guam was also affected by rain. The match was tied, 3-3, at the bottom of the third when organizers decided to postpone the match. It was rescheduled yesterday evening at 6pm with the weather finally cooperating after two days of heavy rain. Results of Guam-CNMI baseball duel were unavailable at press time.

Games in the singles tennis competition at the Palau Pacific Resort last Tuesday were also suspended in the afternoon and only the team event gold medal

game between the CNMI and Guam was completed.

Guam won the match with Wendel Roden beating Jeff Race, 7-6 (5), 6-2, and Justin Dugan sweeping Todd Montgomery, 6-2, 6-2. Meanwhile, the outrigger canoe competition will kick off this morning at the Meyuns Seaplane Ramp.

Gilbert Birnbrich said the team arrived for the race Tuesday night and is looking forward to winning medals in sprints and long distance races.

MEN'S

From Page 28

Quan, who was outrebounded by Palau frontliners in the first three periods, collared a crucial offensive board and had a putback that gave the CNMI the insurance basket.

The CNMI-Palau game was tied last at 59-all, before Mendiola, seeing the 24-second shot clock ticking, pulled up for a triple from the right key and connected on the long jumper for the team's 62-59 lead.

A layup from Sunshine Solablabai moved Palau within one, but Barcinas made it a three-point game again, 64-61, when

he went 2-for-2 from the foul line in the ensuing play.

Palau muffed a 3-point attempt on the other end, returning possession to the CNMI. Cruz was then forced to pull up for a trey with the shotclock running down and missed. However, Quan positioned himself well for the rebound play, took the board, and then made a putback to give the CNMI a 66-61 lead, 31.2 ticks to go in the game.

Palau attempted another 3-point shot, but Mendiola partially blocked Yutaka Gibbons' attempt. Barcinas then picked up the leather after the botched play, was fouled, and put the icing on the cake by nailing his first free throw, with less than 10

seconds remaining in the game.

The CNMI tasted its biggest lead of eight, 37-45, before Gibbons erupted for three straight triples with the last one at the buzzer ending the third canto with Palau finally on top, 46-45.

With momentum switching to their side and the home crowd cheering them on, the Palau cagers remained in the driver's seat in the first few minutes of the fourth canto.

Facing another possible collapse in the game that the CNMI controlled in the second and third cantos, Cruz decided to take the cudgels for the Commonwealth and had several successes on offense and defense. He made

layups, stole possessions, and drilled long jumpers to keep the CNMI in the game in the fourth period until his teammates helped him out in the homestretch.

"The boys kept their composure. It was hard to play this kind of game, especially when you are facing the home team, but our players delivered," CNMI coach Rufino Aguon said.

CNMI 67 – Cruz 31, Barcinas 11, Quan 7, Mendiola 5, Iguel 5, Lee 2.

Palau 61 – Watson 24, Gibbons 11, Undecimo 9, Oiterong 7, Soalablabai 6, Williams 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-11, 32-27, 45-46, 67-61.

CNMI

From Page 28

over Guam gave the CNMI the gold medal in the team event.

Palau took the silver, while Guam and Kosrae settled for the bronze medal.

The CNMI was playing in the men's doubles event yesterday, but results were unavailable

at press time. Today, Lim and company will start their bid in the singles event.

Benavente tops discus throw

Jenequa Benavente gave the CNMI its second gold medal in athletics after ruling the women's discus throw.

The 18-year-old Benavente recorded 31.34m

in the discus throw to beat seven other participants, including silver medalist Maleah Tangadik (31.20) of Palau and bronze medalist Genie Gerardo (26.46m) of Guam.

In the women's high jump of the rain-delayed athletics event, Jacque Wonenberg saved a bronze medal.

The CNMI is expected to

win more medals in athletics, as the Commonwealth qualified in other events on Day 1 of the competition at the Palau National Track and Field.

Tyrone Omar and twins Yvonne and Yvette Bennett qualified in the 100m finals, while Clayton Kenty also made the grade in the men's 400m hurdles, and Wonenberg was leading in the pentathlon.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	67	39	.632	—
New York	66	40	.623	1
Boston	61	46	.570	6 1/2
Toronto	56	51	.523	11 1/2
Baltimore	33	73	.311	34

Central Division

Chicago	60	46	.566	—
Minnesota	59	48	.551	1 1/2
Detroit	53	53	.500	7
Kansas City	46	61	.430	14 1/2
Cleveland	45	62	.421	15 1/2

West Division

Texas	61	45	.575	—
Los Angeles	54	54	.500	8
Oakland	53	53	.500	8
Seattle	40	67	.374	21 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	60	46	.566	—
Philadelphia	58	48	.547	2
New York	54	53	.505	6 1/2
Florida	53	53	.500	7
Washington	47	60	.439	13 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	60	48	.556	—
St. Louis	59	48	.551	1/2
Milwaukee	50	58	.463	10
Houston	47	59	.443	12
Chicago	46	61	.430	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	37	69	.349	22

West Division

San Diego	62	43	.590	—
San Francisco	62	45	.579	1
Colorado	55	51	.519	7 1/2
Los Angeles	55	52	.514	8
Arizona	40	67	.374	23

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 6
N.Y. Mets 3, Atlanta 2
Philadelphia 6, Florida 1
Milwaukee 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Houston 18, St. Louis 4
San Francisco 10, Colorado 0
Arizona 6, Washington 1
L.A. Dodgers 2, San Diego 1
Chicago White Sox 12, Detroit 2, 1st game
Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 1, 2nd game
Baltimore 6, L.A. Angels 3
Toronto 8, N.Y. Yankees 2
Boston 3, Cleveland 1
Tampa Bay 6, Minnesota 4
Kansas City 3, Oakland 2
Seattle 3, Texas 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7th Micronesian Games Opening Ceremony

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Palauan blows the shell horn to signal the start of the torch relay.



Delegates of host Palau drew a big cheer from the home crowd.



Yap and its flagbearers wore their traditional costume.



The 170-strong Guam Team participates in the opening ceremony.



Above, the Kosrae delegates enter the Palau National Track and Field in preparation for the opening ceremony of the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last Sunday.



Left, the Marshall Islands delegates wave their flag as they enter the oval of the Palau National Track and Field during the opening ceremony of the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last Sunday.



Above, Pohnpei delegates in the parade of nations.

Right, Chuuk athletes take their turn in the parade of nations.



Left, The CNMI delegates wave to the crowd during the parade of nations in the opening ceremony of the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last Sunday.

Below, The CNMI tennis team had some visitors from Saipan who cheered the Commonwealth netters during their gold medal game against Guam at the Airai Tennis Court.





Halladay pitches Philadelphia past Florida

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Teammates say Favre texted them of plans to retire

24



28 THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI collects 10 more gold medals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI men's 400m freestyle relay team members show their gold medal. From left, Kensuke Kimura, Shin Kimura, Kai Staal, and Rezne Wong

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MEYUNS, Palau—Medals continued to pour in for the CNMI so did rain that stalled and cancelled games in the 7th Micronesian Games last Tuesday.

The Commonwealth collected 10 more gold medals in Day 3 of the Micro Games with the CNMI swimmers delivering eight and athletics' Jenequa Benavente and the table tennis squad clinching one apiece.

■ ■ ■

CNMI table tennis team wins gold medal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—The CNMI Men's Table Tennis Team accomplished its mission in the first two days of competition at the multi-purpose hall of the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center here after winning the gold medal in the team event.

The team, composed of Budhi Gurung, Steve Lim, Luke Lu, and Su Yong Dong, took the gold medal after pre-

vailing against squads from Pohnpei, Kosrae, Palau, and Guam.

Going into the 7th Micronesian Games, Lim set a modest target for the CNMI ping-pong delegation in

Palau—to defend the gold medal it won in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan—and they got what they wished for.

The CNMI ping-pong team debuted against Pohnpei in the morning match in Day 1 of the competition last Tuesday. Against, Pohnpei, the CNMI needed only to win five of the nine singles game to prevail in the round-robin tournament.

The unofficial medal tally, brought to you by IT&E, shows the CNMI on top with 20 gold medals, seven silver, and four bronze. It is followed by host Palau with eight gold, the same number of silver, and 11 bronze medals. Third place in the medal standings is occupied by Pohnpei with four gold, three silver, and four bronze medals.

■ ■ ■

The CNMI Swimming Team went home with eight gold medals, one silver, and one bronze in the swimming competition finals held Tuesday night at the Palau

See GOLD on Page 26

Men's Nationals survive Palau

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—The CNMI Men's Nationals sent home the hostile crowd at the Palau National Gymnasium disappointed after pulling off a 67-61 win against host Palau last Tuesday night.

Jericho Cruz, Dan Barcinas, Peter Mendiola, and Tim Quan delivered the clutch plays for the CNMI, allowing the Commonwealth to recover from a sorry 67-71 loss against Pohnpei on Monday. Palau dropped to a 0-2 record, as it also lost its first game in the basketball competition of the 7th Micronesian Games against the Marshall Islands last Monday.

Cruz canned a triple at in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, ending the CNMI's four-minute drought since the third period and went on to score nine straight markers at one point in the final canto to keep his team afloat.

Barcinas did a great job quarterbacking for the Commonwealth and drilled crucial free throws, silencing the home crowd, who booed him to miss.

Mendiola, who was held to a field goal in the first three quarters, made a triple that finally put the CNMI ahead going into the last 2:12 of the game.

See MEN'S on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Pete Mendiola, center, battles Palau's Raymond Watson, right, and Gino Smau for the rebound during their game in the basketball competition in the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Gymnasium Tuesday night.

Life in Motion

7th Micro Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
CNMI	20	7	4	31
Palau	8	8	11	27
Pohnpei	4	3	4	11
Marshall	2	10	7	19
Guam	2	4	2	8
Chuuk	0	1	0	1
Kosrae	0	0	2	2
Yap	0	0	1	1

As of 5pm Aug. 4, Palau time.

IT&E supports our local athletes!



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Luke Lu in action in the table tennis competition of the 7th Micronesian Games at the multi-purpose hall of the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center in Koror, Palau.